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*Fraternallly*

*W<sup>m</sup> R. Singleton*

*Grand Secretary*

Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia

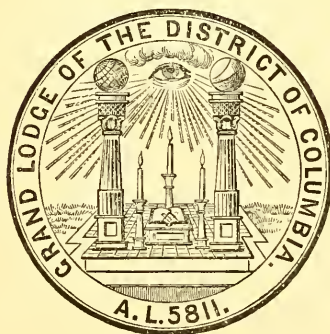
HISTORY  
OF THE  
GRAND LODGE  
AND OF  
FREEMASONRY  
IN THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
WITH  
BIOGRAPHICAL APPENDIX.

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COMPILED BY  
W. BRO. KENTON N. HARPER,  
NAVAL LODGE, NO. 4.

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PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE GRAND LODGE.



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## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION.

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At the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, F. A. A. M., of the District of Columbia, held December 15, 1909, the undersigned Special Committee were authorized and directed to proceed with the publication of a History of the Grand Lodge and of Freemasonry in the District of Columbia, prepared by W. Bro. Kenton N. Harper, a Past Master of Naval Lodge, No. 4, this jurisdiction, and the Historian of the Grand Lodge especially designated and appointed for the purpose.

The Committee have had careful supervision over the subject matter of this History and in connection with the Historian have defined the scope and arrangement of the work.

The work, it seems to the Committee, is as complete a history of Freemasonry in the District of Columbia as it is possible to prepare from obtainable data, containing as it does all available facts of general importance and interest concerning the Fraternity, covering the period from long prior to the formation of the Grand Lodge in eighteen hundred and eleven to the year of its one hundredth anniversary.

The Committee have been mindful of the difficulties and embarrassments which the Historian has encountered in his work and have been more than gratified at the successful and pleasing outcome of his labors. Brother Harper has been painstaking and thorough in his quest for material and has gotten together a wealth of historical matter of incalculable value to students of our Masonic life and history, and interesting and instructive as well to even the casual reader by the skillful grouping and scholarly presentation of the rich fund of information he has succeeded in bringing together.

He has exercised good judgment in the selection of his material and accepted only such data as was of unquestioned authenticity and reliability.

That the Historian has well and faithfully performed the important and onerous duty assigned him the succeeding pages of this volume amply testify, and this chronicle of the life and activities of Freemasonry in our jurisdiction for more than a hundred years will ever stand as a lasting monument to Brother Harper's zeal, ability, and indefatigable industry.

LURTIN R. GINN,  
GEORGE E. CORSON,  
ARVINE W. JOHNSTON,  
*Committee.*

## FOREWORD.

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*"I look on that man as happy who when there is a question of success looks into his work for a reply, not into the market, not into opinion, not into patronage."*—EMERSON.

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*In presenting the "History of the Grand Lodge and of Freemasonry in the District of Columbia" the author, conceiving that a brief review of the several previous movements in this direction cannot fail to prove of interest, not only as indicating in some degree the difficulties of such an undertaking, but also as demonstrating the importance the matter has always assumed in the minds of the leaders of our local Craft, premises his introduction with the following historical facts :*

*As early as 1857 Grand Master Whiting having recommended that a history be prepared "to rescue from the past the material facts and incidents connected with the introduction, progress, and vicissitudes of Masonry within the District of Columbia," a committee to examine into and report upon the expediency of such an undertaking was appointed, consisting of Past Grand Master French, D. G. Master Page, and Brother Rheese. This committee, exceptionally well qualified, reported in 1858, heartily favoring the project, and after touching upon the fact that there is in this section a Masonic history anterior to the formation of the Grand Lodge, says : "A history, to be complete and one creditable to this Grand body, should contain all the action, of whatsoever nature, with which the Grand Lodge has had any connection since its organization, and it can only be written after much investigation and much reflection, and it will require much time and labor."*

*In spite of the fact that the committee urged the matter*

*with great force it was lost sight of in the press of other matters, and was not revived until 1871 when Grand Master Stansbury, in his annual address, influenced unquestionably not only by the palpable desirability of such a work, but also by the repeated and insistent demands from other jurisdictions for light upon our local history, invited consideration of the subject, but no notice being taken thereof he again, in 1874, earnestly renewed his recommendation, saying, in part: "Every year's delay will make the recovery of the details of the early history of our lodges more and more difficult."*

*Thus aroused the Grand Lodge authorized the Grand Master to appoint an Historian, directed the secretaries of subordinate lodges to afford him every facility for the collection of facts from their records, and otherwise evinced its active interest in the project. In pursuance of the order the Grand Master at once appointed the late Brother Wm. R. Singleton, for many years Grand Secretary, and a Masonic writer of world-wide reputation, who immediately set to work with his characteristic enthusiasm and thoroughness, and in a comparatively short time reported that he had his manuscript in shape for publication, but it is a matter of lasting regret that the scarcity of Grand Lodge funds during this period not only prevented the printing of this undoubtedly valuable historical work by that body, but led to the practical rejection of an offer by Brother Singleton to assume the greater part of the expense and a lukewarm attitude toward his later proposition to publish by subscription. The report of the Historian embodying this latter idea was presented in 1879 and contained a prospectus of the proposed History, and the whole matter being thereupon referred to a special committee, of which P. G. Master Stansbury was chairman, that committee the following year reported that the first seven chapters covered the plan contemplated by the Grand Lodge, but the remaining eight chapters "deal with degrees, orders and rites of which this Grand Lodge as a body can have no knowledge," and recommended the publication of the first seven chapters by the Grand Lodge "as soon as the condition of the*

*treasury will permit," with the authority to include the rest of the matter within the same cover, provided it could be done without expense to the Grand Lodge.*

*With the adoption of this discouraging resolution the chance of richly benefiting by the many weary hours of unselfish toil given to the task by one so eminently fitted passed from the Grand Lodge, the most diligent search among the papers of the deceased Brother failing to bring to light the missing manuscript with the exception of a few sheets which, according to an introductory memorandum, were rewritten upon the discovery that a portion of the original draft had disappeared.*

*The approaching Centennial celebration of the birth of the Grand Lodge impressing the then Grand Master, Lurtin R. Ginn, with the desirability of having prepared "an accurate and comprehensive history of the Grand Lodge and of Freemasonry in the District of Columbia" as a feature of that event, such a recommendation was incorporated in his address in 1905, and, meeting with the approval of the Grand Lodge, was consummated by the appointment, at the installation communication of the same year, of the author hereof.*

*Coming thus along the Path of Circumstance, as a duty from which there was no honorable escape, the commission was accepted, in spite of a depressing sense of inadequate equipment for the task, and the leisure hours of five years have been conscientiously devoted to research and the assembly of so much of the accumulated data as appeared to be of sufficient historical value.*

*The author has endeavored to guard against the tendency of works of this character to degenerate into mere copies of records, burdened with uninteresting minutiae of names, and dates, and trivialities of routine, and while sacrificing no important event has aimed to present a history at once concise, accurate, and readable. Chronological order has been preserved in the plan as a whole, yet an occasional departure therefrom, in order to bring widely scattered yet closely related units together for the intelligent consideration of important movements covering periods of years, has been deemed essen-*



tial, and is hoped will add to the interest and value of the book.

*The selection of the material and the method of presentation being the result of his personal judgment, matured by long study and deliberation, the author is fully alive to the certainty of criticism. He would say, however, to his Brethren that in the prosecution of this work he has gone carefully through the Grand Lodge reports and detached papers; has consulted the records of the subordinate lodges; has read every work remotely bearing on the subject that came his way; has dug among the newspapers of by-gone days; has corresponded with or consulted such individuals from whom aid might reasonably be expected, and, in short, has left no stone unturned, no clue unfollowed, that gave promise of legitimate material.*

*An arduous task and yet full of compensations, and if these chapters, upon which he has wrought with gladness, heartfully, shall meet with any measure of approbation that fact shall constitute an added reward to that already his cherished possession—the consciousness of having discharged this duty to the best of his ability.*

*H. N. Harper*

*Historian.*

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## History of Freemasonry in the District of Columbia.







MASONIC PROCESSION AT THE LAYING OF THE CORNERSTONE  
OF THE CAPITOL, SEPTEMBER 18, 1793



## CHAPTER I.

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### WHENCE CAME WE?

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THEORIES OF ORIGIN—GRAND LODGES OF ENGLAND—INTRO-  
DUCTION OF MASONRY INTO THE COLONIES—FOR-  
MATION OF GRAND LODGE OF MARYLAND—  
THE TRADITION OF ST. ANDREW'S  
LODGE, GEORGETOWN.

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*"Traditions in history are but the circling wavelets which the magician's wand may raise on the stream of history, but the pearls of truth lie in the deep waters below, and can only be reached and brought to view by the plumb-line of investigation."*—ANON.

---

THE MOST profound mystery in the great system of morality we call Masonry is its origin. Back of the period of authentic recorded history stretch misty avenues of speculation, along which a host of brilliant delvers after the Truth have wandered, and from the warp and woof of world-old traditions woven many more or less fanciful and sometimes plausible and attractive theories of the birth and early life of this, one of the greatest forces for good the world has ever known.

Dr. Oliver would have us believe that Masonry was a living science in the days of the Garden of Eden, and Adam its first earthly exponent. Dr. Mitchell exploits the popular belief in its origin at the building of King Solomon's Temple. Dr. Mackey, more conservative, goes no further back than the College of Architects of the seventeenth century; and so on through a host of writers.

Interesting, beautiful, valuable withal, but not history, and the fact remains, from which there is no escape, that no man

can lay his finger upon the time or country, the age or clime, when and where the chaotic elements, crystalizing into the Masonic creation, first heard the fiat: "Let there be light."

But while this is true there are today prehistoric evidences of a code or codes of morals, illustrated by symbols, in the far past ages nearly akin to our present system, and from these premises may be drawn certain logical and reasonable conclusions, and altho this work is intended to be a history and therefore has only to do with facts, yet the author conceives it to be perfectly proper as well as instructive to glance, in an introductory way, over this field and thereby gain, perhaps, what the artist would call the atmosphere of the whole subject.

It is susceptible of proof that before and after the dawn of history there existed in China a cult or institution using our present-day symbols in the same kind of service to which we put them, and this has ample verification in the "Book of History" of that ancient civilization, a work covering from the twenty-fourth to the seventh century before Christ, a period antedating King Solomon's time by 1500 years and stretching 200 years beyond.

Upon the stupendous piles of Masonry in the Valley of the Nile the traveler may today see the signs and symbols of Masonry sculptured thousands of years ago—the All-seeing Eye, the mosaic pavement, the blazing star, the square, the circle, the parallel lines, and many others. In Greece, also, are to be found traces of the same application of these well known symbols. These and many other evidences lead inevitably to the conclusion that from the earliest ages there have existed associations more or less similar in their general aim and finding natural expression in the same simple emblems. But there is no reason to believe that there is any closer relationship than a natural similarity of expression between the ancient mysteries with their blood-curdling rites and the Masonry of which we have recorded history.

We may even accept the theory that the mysterious vail of Isis curtained the cradle of our Order, to the extent that in

the exercise of such rites the habit of association for definite purpose may have originated and gradually germinated into the great moral forces of later ages, yet absolutely and consistently refuse to trace our ancestry to such sources except in the most general sense.

Following this train of thought we may readily suppose that in Palestine, at the building of King Solomon's Temple, the mysteries of Egypt and Greece were reconstructed, the old mythological divinities and pagan rites forsaken, and an entirely new Order, consecrated to the true God, formed. The same marks of the craftsman are on the ruins of the Temple that may be seen on the Masonry of Egypt and Greece. Here perhaps was the first union of symbolic fraternity with the religion of the Hebrew, but it was not the foundation of Masonry; neither was it the superstructure. The alliance between primitive Christianity and the mystic orders was close and intimate, many of the rites of the early Church showing a striking similarity to and connection with those of the secret organizations of that age.

With the completion of the Temple and the dispersion of the great host of architects and builders to the four corners of the earth the rites and symbols of these fraternities may well have found lodgment in the virgin soil of many countries.

With Christianity Freemasonry, let us now call it, was introduced into Europe and Great Britain, where there may be seen on imposing cathedrals the identical signs and symbols described as appearing on the ruined temples of Egypt, Greece, and Jerusalem. Attractive as this line of speculation must be to the student of Masonry its further pursuit is forbidden by the limited scope of the present work, and we leave it to trace our genealogy by more authentic tho very meager data.

Freemasonry in some form, we have every reason to believe, existed on the continent of Europe and in England, Scotland, and Ireland in the middle ages, and was probably identical with the building corporations and guilds known to have existed at that period. The consensus of opinion of the best



writers is that the present society of Freemasonry is plainly the outgrowth and lineal descendant of those ancient associations of builders, and while documentary evidence is meager and confusing yet the conclusion is logical and acceptable.

The first authentic, or reasonably authentic, organization for the government, regulation, and protection of Masons in their labor came into being in York, England, A. D. 926, by a charter obtained from King Athelston by his brother, Prince Edwin, who was a patron of Masonry, and continued to exist, it is claimed, for a period of more than 800 years. From this so-called Grand Lodge of York there is no evidence that any charters ever issued to American lodges.

About 1685 in Great Britain, under direction of the then Grand Master, Christopher Wren, other than operative Masons commenced to be received into the Order, and the change from operative to speculative began, but the symbols and phrases of operative were retained in illustrating speculative Masonry and the elucidation of the great truths of the now rapidly developing system.

The change was a gradual one but was practically complete by the beginning of the eighteenth century, but the thorough reorganization which took place upon the formation of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717 radically changed the form of government and polity of the institution, and has well been characterized as a revolution. The spirit, fundamental laws, and traditional customs of the ancient Brotherhood, even the technical expressions, well suited to the symbolic architecture of the Temple, were retained, but only figuratively and with a higher significance.

This British speculative Masonry was directly and indirectly transplanted into the American Colonies about two centuries ago.

Prior to 1717 any number of Masons—Dr. Oliver says not less than ten—met as lodges and acted without other authority than their “inherent right,” the word “lodge” at that time having a broad enough meaning to include a meeting as well as an organization. Subsequent to that year, however, the



(JOHN) VALENTINE REINTZEL,  
GRAND MASTER, 1811.

(Picture discovered on eve of publication.)



“inherent right” method of lodge formation was considered illegal, altho practiced to a degree for many decades afterwards without subjecting its adherents to excommunication. Lodges became continuing organizations by charters from a Grand Lodge, and Freemasonry as we know and practice it today may therefore be said to date from the year 1717.

The story of the formation of the Grand Lodge of England has been so often told that it suffices here to give the briefest outline. At the beginning of the eighteenth century Masonry was at such a low ebb in that country that only four lodges had survived, and these four, together with a number of unattached brethren, met in convention at the Apple Tree Tavern in Charles Street, Convent Garden, in February, 1717, when it was resolved to revive the periodical conventions of the officers of lodges, which had long been omitted, and to choose a Grand Master, and accordingly, on St. John's day, 1717, the Assembly and Feast of Free and Accepted Masons was held at the Goose and Gridiron, in St. Paul's Churchyard. Mr. Jacob Sayer was selected and installed as Grand Master, and the Grand Lodge of England instituted. At the communication of St. John's day, 1718, George Payne, Esq., was elected Grand Master of Masons, and his administration is especially notable as being the one in which the old Regulations were given definite form. These Regulations, which had existed long prior to this period but in scattered documents, manuscripts, rituals, etc., were collected and compiled for the first time in 1720, and approved by the Grand Lodge in 1721. This work may well be considered as having the most important bearing on the stability and future prosperity of the institution, and was one of the great revolutionary features of the transition period.

Before many years had passed serious trouble arose in the fraternity in England, mainly through the persistence of certain brethren in organizing and exercising all the functions of lodges under the old system of inherent right and in contempt of the constituted authority of the Grand Lodge, and this rebellious element attained such strength that by the

middle of the eighteenth century a new Grand Lodge was formed under the title of "Ancient York Masons," a body entirely separate and distinct from the so-called "Grand Lodge of York," previously alluded to, and which had been reorganized in 1725, and continued in existence until 1792. The new Grand Lodge, claiming, without warrant, a direct descent from the original York lodge, styled itself "Ancient," and applied the term "Modern" to the Grand Body of 1717, and these terms, misleading and perhaps incorrect in the strictest equity, clung to the two bodies throughout the period of separate existence and have been a source of confusion to Masonic students ever since. After nearly a century of rivalry the two bodies united in 1813 under the title of "The United Grand Lodge of England," and now constitutes one of the strongest and most prosperous of Masonic organizations.

The Ancient and Modern Grand Lodges both established lodges and provincial Grand Lodges in this country in the eighteenth century, the majority, perhaps, by the former, and further accessions to the lodges of that period were had by charters from the Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland.

In the new country Masonry, appealing to the very best citizens, flourished with expansive vigor, and it is a pardonable digression to note that in our struggle for independence the greatest names of the period belonged to members of the mystic tie. Washington, Randolph, Payton, Franklin, La-Fayette, Hamilton, Paul Revere, practically all the general officers of the Continental Army, fifty-two of the fifty-five signers of the Declaration of Independence, and a host of others prominent in that history-making epoch are known to have been Master Masons.

The claims of seniority of the various jurisdictions in the United States in the matter of first lodges has presented a field for disputation which has been greedily seized by many Masonic writers but has no place in the present work except so far as it affects the uncovering of the origin of Freemasonry in the District of Columbia.

Prior to July 10, 1790, the date of the final passage of the act fixing the seat of the Federal Government on the Potomac, the territory now known as the District of Columbia was a part of the State of Maryland, and while the original District embraced a tract of ten miles square lying on the Virginia as well as the Maryland side of the river, yet inasmuch as the retrocession by the Federal Government to Virginia in 1846 of its original contribution to the site left the metes and bounds of the District as we know them today, it is deemed proper in this early retrospect to pay especial attention to the introduction of Masonry into our parent State of Maryland, the history of that introduction necessarily being our own.

Schultz's History of Masonry in Maryland says: "Masonry was introduced into Maryland during the Colonial period from three sources, viz: by the Grand Lodge (Moderns) of Massachusetts; Grand Lodge (Moderns) of England, and the Grand Lodge (Ancients) of Pennsylvania. Traditions indicate that it was also introduced here from Scotland and Germany."

Prior to the formation of the Grand Lodge of Maryland in 1783 we find the existing lodges in that State springing from the sources enumerated above, but immediately upon the close of the Revolutionary War a convention was held, June 17, 1783, by representatives from five lodges located on the Eastern Shore to form an independent Grand Lodge, and as these lodges were all warranted by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania it was deemed necessary to obtain a warrant from that body, which itself was a subordinate of the Grand Lodge (Ancients) of England, before consummating their purpose. A strong element, however, claimed the inherent right to form a Grand body independent of the permission of Pennsylvania, and when after negotiations with that authority covering a year no satisfactory results were obtained, and when for various reasons the matter had lain in abeyance for three years longer, a convention of deputies from the various lodges met at Talbot Court House April 17, 1787, and organized, or as is claimed, reorganized the

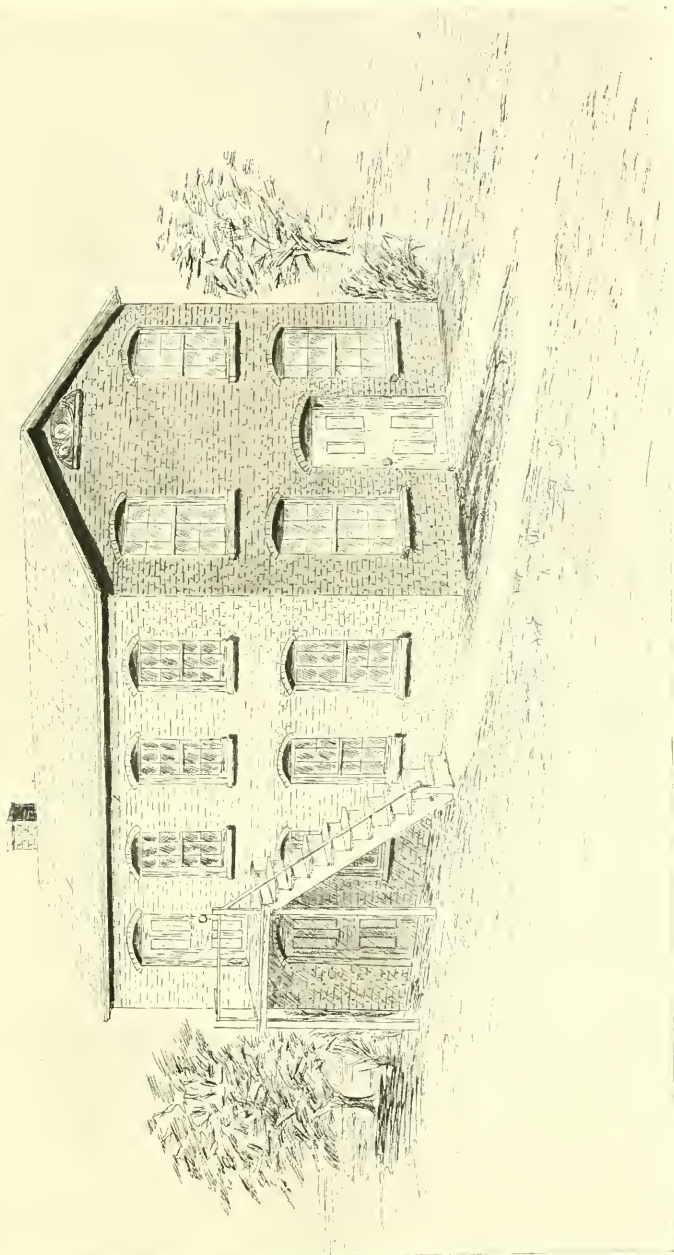


Grand Lodge of Maryland, which from that date to the present has enjoyed a continuous and prosperous existence.

Thus was formed the parent Grand Lodge of Maryland, the third independent Grand Lodge in this country, if we accept the date, June 17, 1783, as the true one, being preceded by Massachusetts in 1777, and Virginia in 1778. The fact that the Provincial Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania on September 25, 1786, declared their independence of Great Britain and at once formed a Grand Lodge doubtless had much to do with bringing the dormant movement in Maryland to life in the following year.

With the gradual absorption of the other lodges of the State and the chartering of new ones outside of our bailiwick we have no direct interest, but before entering upon the history of those bodies in our own territory warranted by this Grand Lodge and of authentic record, let us briefly examine the field of tradition and record for any evidence of organized Masonry in the section subsequently known as the District of Columbia prior to 1789, the date of the first known charter, and the difficulty of such an examination will be made more understandable when the fact is stated that it was the custom of the early days, especially during the Revolutionary War, to keep the records of lodges on slips of paper which were, after so long a time, destroyed, to prevent the possibility of their falling into the hands of profanes, a custom peculiarly aggravating to the modern historian.

There is at the present day in the possession of Potomac Lodge, No. 5, of this jurisdiction, an old Bible published in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1754, with the following inscription in beautifully rounded characters on the fly-leaf: "A present from Mr. Colin Campbell to St. Andrew's Lodge, the 30th January, 1773, Bladensburg," the last word being on a separate line. It has also been asserted—but of the fact there is no available evidence—that the late Rev. Brother Thomas Balch, of Georgetown, had in his possession a diploma showing that his great-grandfather, Col. James Balch, was made a Mason in this Lodge as early as 1737. Diligent inquiry among the



**UNION LODGE ROOM, ELEVENTH STREET, NEAR PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N. W.**

The first Masonic Building to be erected in Washington. Occupied by the Fraternity from completion in 1804 to 1827. On present Post-office site.



descendants of the Rev. Balch, however, fails to bring to light the missing document, which would afford incontrovertible evidence of the existence of a lodge of that name at that period and in this section, but on the contrary unearths an old letter from a nephew of this Col. Balch who states that he never knew his uncle was made a Mason in Georgetown, but was always under the impression that he had received the degrees in France according to the Scottish Rite.

On this Bible and diploma is predicated the theory that a Lodge, called "St. Andrew's," existed in the settlement which, in 1751, was laid out as Georgetown, at an even earlier date than 1737. That such a conclusion is a natural one we admit, but is not proven by the evidence at hand. That no lodge was chartered by either the Grand Lodge of Scotland or the Grand Lodge of England is shown by the following communication to the author in reply to a request for information:

GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND,  
FREEMASONS' HALL,  
EDINBURGH, 12th May, 1906.  
*Grand Secretary's Office.*

Mr. K. N. HARPER,  
201 E Street, Northwest,  
Washington, Dist. of Columbia, U. S. A.

Dear Sir and Bro.: In reply to your letter of 25th Apr., I have made a minute search of our records but cannot trace any lodge having been chartered in Maryland so far back as 1730-40. I have also made enquiry at the Grand Lodge of England, but they have failed to trace the chartering of any lodge in Maryland about that time.

It is of course possible that there may have been such a lodge as that to which you refer, but it would probably be an unconstitutional one, as has been found to be the case with many lodges about the period named and even at a much later date.

Yours, faithfully and fraternally,

DAVID REID,  
*Grand Secretary.*

This, however, by no means disposes of the matter, for not only were lodges formed by inherent right long subsequent to this date, but, as before mentioned, the term "lodge" applied equally to a hap-hazard congregation of Masons for a single meeting as well as to an organized and continuing

body, and it may well be accepted as probable, indeed certain, that among the Scotch immigrants, who, more than any other, found their way up the Patawomeke River to the head of navigation, now the site of Georgetown, in those early days, there were many of the Craft who upon proper occasion assembled for Masonic intercourse, and, as was customary, inducted new members into the mysteries. This is reasonable and indeed has a certain confirmation in the fact that in the traditions of some of the oldest Georgetown families there is mentioned the so-called "Auld Scotch Lodge," an important institution, in which it is said all differences between Masons were referred for adjustment. So we may accept the presence and activity of the fraternity at this period on our soil but can scarcely go further.

The inscription in the Bible proves no location for the St. Andrew's Lodge. It was a Scotch Lodge designation inherited from the old country and held by at least two lodges in the Colonies at that time—one in Massachusetts and one in South Carolina. That Bladensburg was the home of the Lodge we think is sufficiently disproved by the isolated position of the word, and may be accepted as the residence of the donor. That Georgetown may claim the honor is supported only by the fact that the Book has been in the possession of the fraternity there from time immemorial. As the diploma is only a tradition it cannot enter seriously into the argument.

So, giving the facts and theories as they exist as to this early day and leaving the logical reader to draw his own conclusions, we pass on.

## CHAPTER II.

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### IN THE BEGINNING.

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MASONRY AT THE BIRTH OF THE FEDERAL CITY—FIRST LODGE,  
NO. 9, OF GEORGETOWN, CHARTERED—CORNERSTONE OF  
THE DISTRICT—A UNIQUE DISPENSATION—FORMA-  
TION OF FEDERAL, NO. 15—LAYING OF CORNER-  
STONES OF CAPITOL AND WHITE HOUSE.

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*"Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner-stone, a sure foundation."*—Isaiah xxviii, 16.

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THAT FREEMASONRY was a dominating tho unobtrusive force from the very first in this section has striking illustration in the fact that the cornerstone of the District was laid with Masonic ceremonies, and this event, probably without a parallel in the world's annals, furnishes, perhaps, the most natural, certainly the most interesting, point of departure in the historical journey we are about to undertake. The word cornerstone is here used in no figurative sense, but refers to a small marker of masonry set up at Jones Point, on Hunting Creek, below Alexandria, Va., from which were run at right angles the lines which formed the first two sides of the ten-mile square constituting the original District of Columbia. This initial stone was placed according to ancient Masonic usages, April 15, 1791, by the Masonic Lodge of Alexandria, Va., which had been chartered eight years before by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania as No. 39, and which, in 1788, became Alexandria-Washington Lodge, No. 22, under the jurisdiction of Virginia, with George Washington as Master.



This lodge, with one chartered in Georgetown as No. 9, of Maryland, in 1789, constituted organized Masonry within the limits of the contemplated new Territory, and while there remains to us only the most meager account of this first public recorded Masonic function yet it may be surmised that the latter lodge was also in evidence on that eventful Spring day and took an active part in the exercises.

The following account of the affair, published at the time in a Philadelphia paper, is deemed worthy of reproduction:

ALEXANDRIA, *April 21, 1791.*

On Friday, the 15th inst., the Hon. Daniel Carroll and Hon. David Stuart arrived in this town to superintend the fixing of the first corner-stone of the Federal District.

The Mayor and the Commonalty, together with the members of the different Lodges [?] of the town, at three o'clock, waited on the commissioners at Mr. Wise's, where they dined, and, after drinking a glass of wine to the following sentiment, viz.: "May the stone which we are about to place in the ground, remain an immovable monument of the wisdom and unanimity of North America," the company proceeded to Jones Point in the following order:

1st. The Town Sergeant. 2d. Hon. Daniel Carroll and the Mayor. 3d. Mr. Ellicott and the Recorder. 4th. Such of the Common Council and Aldermen as were not Freemasons. 5th. Strangers. 6th. The Master of Lodge, No. 22, with Dr. David Stuart on his right, and the Rev. James Muir [for many years an active Mason] on his left, followed by the rest of the Fraternity, in their usual form of procession. Lastly. The citizens, two by two.

When Mr. Ellicott had ascertained the precise point from which the first line of the District was to proceed, the Master of the Lodge and Dr. Stuart, assisted by others of their brethren, placed the stone. After which a deposit of corn, wine, and oil was placed upon it, and the following observations were made by the Rev. James Muir:

"Of America it may be said, as of Judea of old, that it is a good land and large—a land of brooks of waters, of fountains, and depths that spring out of the valleys and hills—a land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig-trees, and pomegranates—a land of oil, olives, and honey—a land wherein we eat bread without scarceness, and have lack of nothing—a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayst dig brass—a land which the Lord thy God careth for;—the eyes of the Lord thy God are always upon it; from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year.

"May Americans be grateful and virtuous, and they shall insure the indulgence of Providence; may they be unanimous and just, and they shall rise to greatness. May true patriotism actuate every heart; may it be the devout and universal wish. Peace be within thy walls, O America, and prosperity within thy palaces! Amiable it is for brethren to dwell



ALEXANDER MCCORMICK.  
GRAND MASTER, 1812-1813.



together in unity; it is more fragrant than the perfumes on Aaron's garment; it is more refreshing than the dews on Hermon's hill.

"May this stone long commemorate the goodness of God in those uncommon events which have given America a name among nations. Under this stone may jealousy and selfishness be forever buried. From this stone may a superstructure arise, whose glory, whose magnificence, whose stability, unequalled hitherto, shall astonish the world, and invite even the savage of the wilderness to take shelter under its roof."

The company partook of some refreshments, and then returned to the place from whence they came, where a number of toasts were drank; and the following was delivered by the Master of the Lodge (Dr. Dick), and was received with every token of approbation:

"Brethren and Gentlemen: May jealousy, that green-eyed monster, be buried deep under the work which we have this day completed, never to rise again within the Federal District."

The light-house structure now on Jones Point covers the site of these interesting ceremonies.

The next public Masonic function in the embyro city, of which there is evidence, was the laying of the cornerstone of the Union Public Hotel, better known as Blodget's Hotel, which was located between E and F and Seventh and Eighth Streets, N. W., on the site of the old General Post Office, now the Land Office building, and was the most pretentious hostelry in Washington in the early days.

The ceremony took place July 4, 1793, and, while there is no available account of the event, the fact is proven by the existence of a copper plate placed in or on the stone at that time, and discovered forty-six years thereafter.

The plate, a facsimile of which is here given, is in the possession of Bro. Andrew H. Ragan, of B. B. French Lodge, (a son of the late Bro. Daniel Ragan, of Potomac Lodge, one of the devoted few who, in 1838, prevented the surrender of the charter of that Lodge), and its authenticity is vouched for by the following endorsement: "This plate was found in cleaning away the rubbish from the new General Post Office on E, between Seventh and Eighth Streets West, in the City of Washington. Presented by Charles Coltman, the Superintendent, Oct. 8, 1839."

While no instituted lodge existed in the City of Washington

at the time, it is possible that Federal was even then under dispensation and formed the nucleus for the congregation of the members of the craft living in Washington on that "memorable" occasion.

The first charter known to have been issued to any lodge within the limits of the present District of Columbia was issued by the Grand Lodge of Maryland, at a meeting held April 21, 1789, to a lodge to be held in George-Town, Md., on the Potomack River, with \*— Fierer as W. M. and Alexander Grier as S. W. This lodge was the second one chartered by the Grand Lodge of Maryland, and was officially known as "Lodge No. 9," the designation "Potomac" appearing seventeen years later, in connection with the third lodge constituted in Georgetown.

Lodge No. 9, in January, 1792, granted a dispensation for certain of its members who had moved to Port Tobacco, Charles Co., Md., to open a lodge at that place to be known as St. Columbia, pending a regular application to the Grand Lodge of Maryland. It may be said in passing that this somewhat remarkable action finds partial justification in the crude conditions of transportation and communication of the time and the survival in a degree of the old "inherent right" doctrine. Altho this method of procedure was unfavorably criticized in the Grand Lodge, yet the dispensation was confirmed by a warrant to the new lodge under the title of St. Columbia, No. 11. Space is given to record the birth of this lodge, which survived but six years, because of the fact that it was an off-shoot from our own territory and an important event in our little Fraternity world at that time, the drain on the membership of No. 9 caused by its formation resulting in the demise of the Georgetown lodge in the early part of 1794. The petition for the dispensation above referred to as well as that document itself are so novel as to warrant their literal reproduction:

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\* There is every reason to believe that this was Charles Fierer, Editor of the *Times* and the *Potomack Packet*, 1789.

## PETITION.

PORT TOBACCO, CHARLES COUNTY, MD., 1792 AND 5792.

By a communication of sentiments, the following Brethren, to wit: Robert Ferguson, Basil Warring, Alexander Grier, Archibald Dobbins, Thomas Mundell, Judson Clagett, Zaphaniah Turner, Samuel B. Turner, and Samuel T. Dyson, did sign and prefer the following Petition to the Worshipful Lodge of Ancient York Masons No. 9, in Geo. Town.

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and other Brethren of Lodge No. 9, George Town on Potomack. The petition of a number of the Society of Free and Accepted York Masons, residents of Port Tobacco and its vicinity of Charles County, humbly sheweth,—That being feeling impressed with a sense of the duties incumbent on the members of that society, when opportunities conveniently offer for the Commemoration of them they humbly represent, to you, that from a diminution of Brethren in and near that place, and many other concurrent circumstances, they are now reduced to a small number, destitute of Constitutional rights to assemble in Lodge, yet those are both willing and desirous to co-operate with other Brethren in perpetuating the Institution, and to become useful members of the Fraternity your Petitioners therefore pray a dispensation from Lodge No. 9, until they have it in their power to obtain a regular establishment from the Grand Lodge of Maryland—We therefore, whose names are hereunto subscribed, being all Brethren of the Ancient Order of Masons, and conceiving ourselves capable of conducting a lodge in purity, have proceeded to the choice of a Master and Wardens, and have unanimously elected Brother Alexander Grier to be Master, Brother Robert Ferguson to be Senior Warden and Brother Judson M. Clagett to be Junior Warden of the same Lodge, and humbly pray that they may be legally incorporated into a Lodge to be held in Port Tobacco.

(Signed) ROBERT FERGUSON.	JUDSON M. CLAGETT.
BASIL WARRING.	ZEPH. TURNER.
ALEX. GRIER.	SAML. B. TURNER.
ARCHD. DOBBIN.	SAML. T. DYSON.
THOS. MUNDELL.	

## DISPENSATION.

(From the Worshipful Lodge of Ancient York Masons No. 9 in George-Town.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Know that Brother Robert Ferguson, Basil Warring, Alexander Grier, Archibald Dobbin, Thomas Mundell, Judson M. Clagett, Zephaniah Turner, Samuel B. Turner, and Samuel T. Dyson, are authorized and fully empowered to assemble and meet together in Port Tobacco, as a part of Lodge No. 9 (of which they are members) to appoint Officers to govern themselves, according to the Ancient Constitution and Customs of Masons: and they hereby have a dispensation in ample form for holding



such meetings, as in their wisdom shall be deemed prudent, until the first day of January next ensuing, they conducting themselves at such meetings, as true, faithful York Masons, have power to do all work of Ancient Free Masons in proper form, except only, entering, Passing and Raising a Brother, for which a perfect Charter must be obtained from the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Maryland.

In evidence of the above, the Officers of Lodge No. 9, do hereunto fix our hands and seal of our Lodge, this twenty-fifth day of June, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two, and of Masonry Five thousand seven hundred and ninety-two.

Signed by P. CASANAVE, Master.

THOS. BEATTY, JR., Senior Warden.

VALENTINE REINTZELL, JR., Junior Warden.

ANTHONY REINTZELL, Treasurer.

SAML. TURNER, JR., Secretary.

The cornerstone of the White House was laid October 13, 1792, and while tradition holds the ceremony to have been under Masonic auspices, and a number of veracious historians so affirm, the most diligent search, in which the author has had the assistance of the late A. R. Spofford, for many years Librarian of Congress, and Bro. Elliott Woods, the present Superintendent U. S. Capitol Building and Grounds, has failed to unearth any account of the occasion. In the absence, however, of any evidence to the contrary, and taking into consideration the known fact that the leading men in the Government and in the corps of architects and builders at that time were Master Masons, it is a reasonably fair assumption that the ceremony was Masonic, and while this is not historic it is given as an historic probability.

Work on the Capitol building, Executive Mansion, and other public buildings at once brought to the new city a small army of architects and builders, and among this company were found many of the craft who later were prominently identified with Masonic and municipal matters, and were largely instrumental in safely guiding the Federal city through its troublous formative period. One or two may properly be mentioned, and the first name that demands attention is that of Brother James Hoban, known as "Captain" through his connection with a militia organization, who was the Architect of the

*This first corner stone of the UNION  
PUBLIC HOTEL, was laid by the free Ma-  
sons of the City of WASHINGTON & of Geo-  
Town, on the memorable 4<sup>th</sup> day of July 1793*

*JAMES HOBEN Architect.*



Capitol and the Executive Mansion, and who had previously achieved distinction in his profession in Dublin. He was one of many Irishmen and devout Romanists who in that day were also consistent members of the Masonic Fraternity. A quick-tempered tho generous man, with a rather exalted opinion of his own merits, his professional life was a stormy one, but to the sheer power of his will, combating official parsimony, the country is indebted for the magnificent proportions of our Capitol and Executive Mansion, and in him the Fraternity finds one of the most potent early forces for the permanent establishment of Masonry in this section. A resident of Washington for nearly forty years, he grew rich, prominent, influential, and esteemed, and after a long and honorable career passed away in 1831, and after a temporary burial in St. Patrick's Church graveyard (afterwards the site of the Masonic Temple at Ninth and F Streets) found his last resting place in Mt. Olivet Cemetery. Next perhaps in point of interest among the earlier Masons was Brother Clotworthy Stephenson, who acted as Grand Marshal at the laying of the cornerstone of the Capitol and was one of the organizers of the old Volunteer Fire Department. Until his death, in 1819, he was most active in Masonry and conspicuous on all public occasions, being a man of fluent speech, good presence, and quick resource. Collin Williamson, a Scotchman and Master Stone Mason at the Capitol, who personally set the cornerstone of that building, also deserves place in the list of the prominent Masonic pioneers as one who, altho but a short time a resident of the city, left the impress of his personality indelibly stamped on the early history of the Fraternity. The limited scope of the present work forbids at this point the multiplication of names equally deserving of record and which will find recognition on other pages, but these three are here mentioned because of the fact that they were the prominent movers in obtaining a charter for the first lodge founded after the formation of the District. This lodge, Federal, No. 15, of Maryland (now No. 1 of this jurisdiction), having previously, according to the custom of the period, obtained a "dispensation"

from No. 9, was warranted September 12, 1793, just six days before the laying of the cornerstone of the Capitol, and it is a natural and reasonable conclusion that this approaching ceremonial had much to do with at least hastening its birth.

This cornerstone laying, one of the most important events of our local history, occurred September 18, 1793, and was under the exclusive control of the Fraternity, Joseph Clark, Worshipful Master of Lodge No. 12, at Annapolis, acting as Grand Master. Gen. George Washington, then President of the United States, joined in the ceremonies as a Mason, was honored with the chief place in the procession, and is believed to have taken the square and level in his hands and laid the stone according to the ancient Masonic rites. The following contemporary account of the event, published in the *Columbian Mirror* and *Alexandria Gazette*, September 23, 1793, gives us the viewpoint of the period, and is deemed of such historical interest as to warrant its reproduction in part:

GEORGE-TOWN, *September 21, 1793.*

On Wednesday one of the grandest Masonic processions took place for the purpose of laying the corner-stone of the Capitol of the United States, which perhaps ever was exhibited on the like important occasion. About 10 o'clock, Lodge No. 9 was visited by that congregation so graceful to the craft, Lodge No. 22 of Virginia, with all their Officers and Regalia; and directly afterwards appeared, on the Southern banks of the Grand River Potowmack, one of the finest companies of Volunteer Artillery that hath been lately seen, parading to receive the President of the United States, who shortly came in sight with his suite, to whom the Artillery paid their military honors; and his Excellency and suite crossed the Potowmack, and was received in Maryland by the officers and brethren of No. 22 Virginia, and No. 9 Maryland, whom the President headed, and preceded by a band of music; the rear brought up by the Alexandria Volunteer Artillery, with grand solemnity of march, proceeded to the President's square, in the city of Washington, where they were met and saluted by No. 15, of the city of Washington, in all their elegant badges and clothing, headed by brother Joseph Clark, Rt. W. G. M. P. T., and conducted to a large lodge prepared for the purpose of their reception. After a short space of time, by the vigilance of brother Clotworthy Stephenson, Grand Marshal P. T., the brotherhood and other bodies were disposed in a second order of procession, which took place amidst a brilliant crowd of spectators of both sexes, according to the following arrangement, viz:—

The Surveying Department of the city of Washington.  
 Mayor and Corporation of Georgetown.  
 Virginia Artillery.  
 Commissioners of the city of Washington, and their attendants.  
 Stone Cutters. Mechanics.  
 Two Sword Bearers.  
 Masons of the 1st degree.  
 Bibles, &c., on Grand Cushions.  
 Deacons with Staffs of Office.  
 Masons of the 2d degree.  
 Stewards with wands.  
 Masons of the 3d degree.  
 Wardens with truncheons.  
 Secretaries with tools of Office.  
 Past Masters with their Regalia.  
 Treasurers with their Jewels.  
 Band of Music.  
 Lodge No. 22, of Virginia, disposed in their own Order.  
 Corn, Wine, and Oil.  
 Grand Master P. T. George Washington; W. M. No. 22, Virginia.  
 Grand Sword Bearer.

The procession marched two abreast in the greatest solemn dignity, with music playing, drums beating, colors flying, and spectators rejoicing from the President's square to the Capitol in the city of Washington, where the Grand Marshal ordered a halt, and directed each file in the procession to incline two steps, one to the right, and one to the left, and faced each other, which formed an hollow oblong square, through which the Grand Sword Bearer led the van, followed by the Grand Master P. T. on the left, the President of the United States in the centre, and the Worshipful Master of No. 22 Virginia on the right; all the other orders that composed the procession advanced in the reverse of their order of march from the President's square to the south-east corner of the Capitol, and the artillery filed off to a destined ground to display their manœuvres and discharge their cannon; the President of the United States, the Grand Master P. T., and Worshipful Master of No. 22 taking their stand to the east of a huge stone, and all the craft forming a circle westward, stood a short time in awful order.

The artillery discharged a volley.

The Grand Marshal delivered the Commissioners a large silver plate with an inscription thereon, which the Commissioners ordered to be read, and was as follows:—

This \*south-east corner-stone of the Capitol of the United States of America, in the city of Washington, was laid on the 18th day of September, 1793, in the thirteenth year of American Independence, in the first year of the second term of the Presidency of George Washington, whose

\* The custom of laying in the north-east corner is of comparatively recent origin.



virtues in the civil administration of his country have been so conspicuous and beneficial, as his military valor and prudence have been useful in establishing her liberties, and in the year of Masonry 5793, by the President of the United States, in concert with the Grand Lodge of Maryland, several lodges under its jurisdiction, and Lodge No. 22 from Alexandria, Virginia.

THOMAS JOHNSON,	}	Commissioners.
DAVID STUART,		
DANIEL CARROLL,		
JOSEPH CLARK, R. W.	}	G. M., P. T.
JAMES HOBAN,		
STEPHEN HALLATE,		
COLLIN WILLIAMSON, M. Mason.	}	Architects.

The artillery discharged a volley.

The plate was then delivered to the President, who, attended by the Grand Master P. T. and three most Worshipful Masters, descended to the cavazion trench and deposed the plate, and laid it on the cornerstone of the Capitol of the United States of America, on which was deposited corn, wine, and oil, when the whole congregation joined in reverential prayer, which was succeeded by Masonic chaunting honors, and a volley from the artillery.

The President of the United States, and his attendant brethren, ascended from the cavazion to the east of the corner-stone, and there the Grand Master P. T., elevated on a triple rostrum, delivered an oration fitting the occasion which was received with brotherly love and commendation.

[The oration is sufficiently quaint and interesting to justify the few extracts below]:

MY WORTHY BRETHREN:

\* \* \* \*

I beg leave to declare to you that I have, and I expect that you also have, every hope that the grand work we have done today will be handed down, as well by record, as by oral tradition, to a late posterity—as the like work of that ever memorable temple to our order erected by our ancient G. M. Solomon.

\* \* \* \*

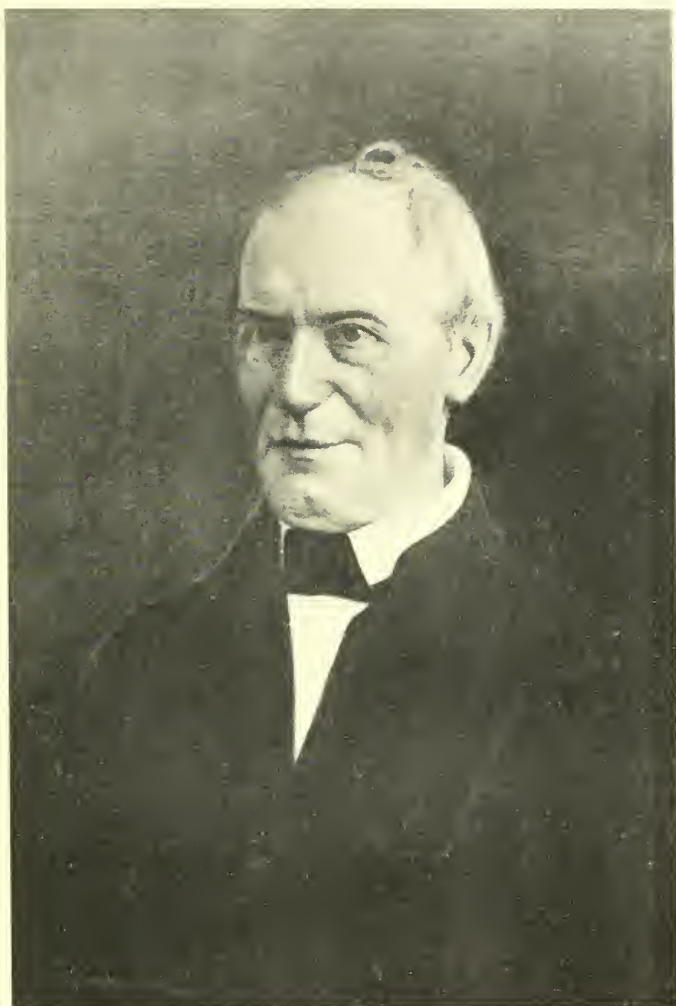
I say that we further hope that the work may be remembered for many ages to come as a similar work hath from the commencement of time to this remarkable moment; I mean the work of laying the Corner Stone of our ancient, honourable and sublime order.

\* \* \* \*

And I hope that our super-excellent order may here [City of Washington] be indefatigably laborious, not only to keep in good repair our Hallowed Dome; but be incessantly industrious to adorn it, with the Grand Theological Virtues Faith, Hope, and Charity, and embellish it with Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty.

\* \* \* \*

It must, my dear Brethren, be evident to all our understanding—that not alone nature, but Providence, hath marked their intentions in the most



DANIEL KURTZ,  
GRAND MASTER, 1818-1819; GRAND HIGH PRIEST, 1820-1822.



indelible manner to make this the seat for the Grand Mark, the super-excellent emporium of politics, commerce, industry and arts of the United States—Seated in the very centricity of our republic—on the banks of one of the noblest rivers in the universe—sufficiently capacious to erect thereon a city equal, if not superior, in magnitude to any in the world—It boasts, but then very truly—a climate the most serene and salubrious—equal of access from all the cardinal and intermedial points as any place that kind nature ever formed even beyond the conception of art—wanting no defence but what is in, and ever will be in, I trust, the intrepidity and bravery of its founder and citizens.

\* \* \* \*

Although it is not the growth of, yet there is already planted in this garden or young nursery of the arts, and hath blossomed numerous flowers, that bloom with high lustre in their various departments, (not to mention its ever to be revered founder), but its finances, conductors, projectors, delineators and executive geniuses without number, and many of them not only brethren of our order, but brothers of super-excellent and sublime estimation.

\* \* \* \*

At frequent intervals, during the delivery of the oration, volleys were discharged by the artillery. The ceremony ended in prayer, Masonic chanting honors, and a fifteenth volley from the artillery.

The whole company retired to an extensive booth, where an ox of 500 lbs. weight was barbecued, of which the company generally partook, with every abundance of other recreation. The festival concluded with fifteen successive volleys from the artillery, whose military discipline and manœuvres merit every commendation.

Before dark the whole company departed, with joyful hopes of the production of the labor.

The punctuation throughout is that of the original article and, in the last line but one of the section showing the Masonic formation, has led to the palpably erroneous impression that President Washington was Grand Master P. T. on this occasion, altho a proper examination of the rest of the account plainly excludes the possibility of such an inference, and indicates that the sentence is intended to enumerate three persons: Joseph Clark, Grand Master P. T.; George Washington, and the Master of Lodge No. 22, of Alexandria, Va. The conclusion thus reached does not, however, necessarily carry with it the assumption that the long-cherished tradition that Washington personally laid the cornerstone must be abandoned. Controversialists point to the fact that W. Bro. Washington was not the Grand Master P. T., and that while the account credits him with having “deposed” the silver plate

it simply recites that corn, wine, and oil were deposited on the stone and is silent regarding the ceremony attendant thereon, and argue therefrom that the more important part must have been performed by the Grand Master P. T., and attempt to fortify their position by holding it to be inconceivable in Masonry that any one other than the Grand Master should, in his presence, officiate on such an occasion. But while there is no available record of the details of the affair except the above, there is sufficient evidence, both in the text of the inscription referred to and in the body of the article, to establish beyond question the fact that, by the high power in him vested, the Grand Master P. T. delegated to W. Bro. Washington, for the time being, his rights and prerogatives, in large part, at least, and that to the distinguished first President of the United States belongs the honor of "laying" the cornerstone of its Capitol building. Indeed this has substantial corroboration through Bro. John Mountz, Secretary at that time of Lodge No. 9, Georgetown, who was present, and who has left documentary testimony that he stood near the President "when he laid the first cornerstone of the Captiol of the United States," and while this document is dated in 1854, when the Brother had reached the advanced age of 83 years, his contemporaries accredit him with unimpaired mental faculties, and full credence must therefore be given to this practically conclusive evidence.

The gavel used by Worshipful Brother Washington was upon the conclusion of the exercises handed to the Master of No. 9, of Georgetown, Valentine Reintzel, afterward the first Grand Master of the District of Columbia, and has been carefully preserved by the successors of that lodge, being now in the possession of Potomac Lodge, No. 5, of this jurisdiction, and never allowed to leave the custody of a special committee. A list of the many notable occasions on which it has since been used will be found elsewhere in these pages. The trowel with which the cement was spread is still in the possession of Alexandria-Washington Lodge, No. 22, of Virginia, and is one of the most cherished relics of that historic lodge.

## CHAPTER III.

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### BETWEEN THE CENTURIES.

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A JURISDICTION IN THE MAKING—FORMATION OF THE EARLIEST LODGES, COLUMBIA, NO. 19, COLUMBIA, NO. 35, NAVAL, NO. 41, POTOMAC, NO. 43, OF MARYLAND, AND ALEXANDRIA-BROOKE, NO. 47, OF VIRGINIA—DEATH OF WASHINGTON—SIDE LIGHTS ON THE MASONIC USAGES OF THE TIME.

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*"They hadn't any fine regalia;  
Their lodges were old and bare;  
But they knew the ancient landmarks,  
And they kept them to a hair."*

—KIPLING.

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WHILE A DETAILED SKETCH of each local lodge, living or extinct, is made a part of the present work, yet inasmuch as the history of the earlier lodges constitutes the history of Freemasonry in the District for the period preceding the formation of the Grand Lodge, a brief outline of the more important events connected with these several bodies at that time must find place at this point, that the story may lack no essential element for the general reader, the more exacting student being referred for minutiae to the sketches referred to.

In the Grand Lodge of Maryland, October 22, 1795, the following quaint petition was presented, and, being supported by Federal Lodge, No. 15, now grown to comparatively stalwart proportions in the new city, a charter was issued under the title of Columbia Lodge, No. 19:



The petition of the subscribers, members of the Society of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons, residents of Georgetown, Potomack River, Humbly Showeth:

That whereas the Lodge heretofore held in this town known and distinguished as Lodge No. 9 has from the want of a proper attention in its members and a remissness in the execution of its by-laws by the proper officers and from sundry other causes sunk into disregard; that your petitioners a select few who have ever kept sight of the Ancient Landmarks, and reviewed with pain the decline and at length total annihilation of that Lodge and being deeply impressed with a sense of the duties incumbent on us as Masons, and conscious that every effort to revive a Lodge under the charter of No. 9 would prove fruitless, have agreed to petition the Grand Lodge to grant us a constitutional right to assemble, to have and enjoy all rights and privileges usually granted to Lodges, and to confirm our choice of Master and Wardens, with much sincerity we subscribe ourselves your affectionate Brothers.

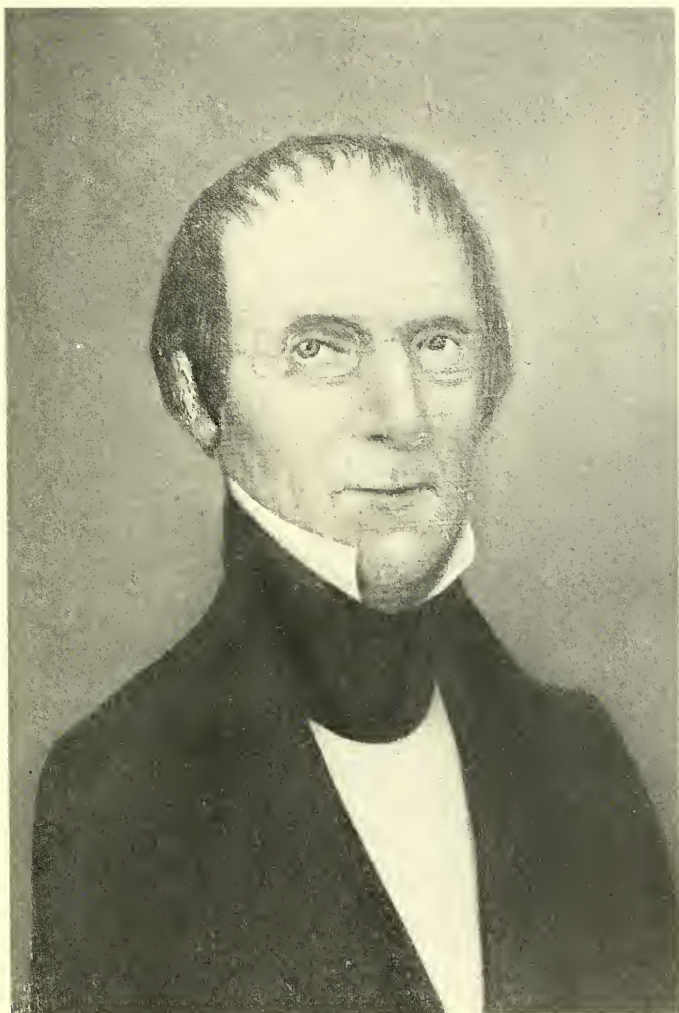
ANTHONY REINTZEL.  
JOHN SUTER, JR.  
WM. CASEY.  
VALENTINE BOGANREIFF.  
CHARLES MINER.

GEORGE VAUGHAN.  
JOHN REINTZEL.  
JAMES MELVIN.  
J. THOMPSON.  
WM. CARY.

THOS. BEATTY, JR.

This lodge, while only in existence for several years, has left a few fragmentary records through which may be gained a glimpse of the Masonic usages and customs of that early day which cannot fail to be of absorbing interest to the Masonic reader, and the thoughtful student needs no word of warning in the perusing of these notes to avoid too hasty conclusions. In order to get the proper viewpoint we must breathe the atmosphere of the period, and, as conditions were so radically different then from now, we must accept as necessary and proper many incongruities and odd regulations almost unintelligible to the modern mind but which, doubtless, were the offspring of the necessities of the times.

The accounts of this lodge were kept in pounds, shillings, and pence, Maryland currency, and the item of expense for refreshments which were enjoyed at every meeting figured large in the total; yet this is easily understandable when we reflect that the opportunities for gathering socially were few and the brethren, many of them coming long distances, would naturally desire to embrace the opportunity to refresh the inner



WILLIAM HEWITT,  
GRAND MASTER, 1820-1821.



man, and neither should we too harshly criticize the fact that liquids of various kinds frequently formed part of the cheer. *Tempora mutantur et nos mutamur in illis.*

The single book of records covers from November 7, 1795, to December 12, 1796, and contains the by-laws, and, while the entire contents of the book might profitably be quoted, we have space for but a few extracts, and select those that exhibit the widest divergence from our latter day customs.

Sunday meetings were frequently held for work and routine business, and this habit, indeed a general one, was not broken entirely in the District until the nineteenth century was well advanced.

An entry under date of May 9, 1796, reads: "Whereas Bro. Bogimaff cannot procure leather aprons as required of him by a resolve of last meeting; Resolved, that Bro. Jas. Thompson procure six dimity aprons for the use of the visiting brethren."

A provision which will at once appeal to the modern Master provided that members of committees be subject to a fine of fifteen shillings for non-attendance on meetings, and unless satisfactory excuse be made to the lodge suspended or expelled.

Commendable stress was laid upon the observance of the proprieties in the lodge room, a regulation forbidding a member from leaving his seat on any pretense whatever "to walk about the room except it be an officer on his duty, nor shall any refreshment be taken in open lodge or any member leave the room for that purpose without leave from the chair."

From the by-laws we quote the following:

Art. I—The stated meetings of this lodge shall be on the second Monday of each month, to be opened precisely at half-past 6 o'clock in all the months of November, December, January, February, and March, and at half-past 7 o'clock in the months April to October.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary or his deputy to call over the names of the members, when every absentee shall pay as a fine for non-attendance at every stated meeting 3s. 9d. (Later raised to 7s. 6d.), and for the third neglect a summons shall be issued and unless due respect be paid thereto and satisfactory reasons be given for such non-attendance

shall be expelled or suspended for a time as a majority of the members present may deem right.

Art. III.—Members behaving in an indecent or disorderly manner shall be suspended for the night or fined in the discretion of the members present in a sum not exceeding two dollars.

Art. V.—No Mason shall be admitted as a visitor of this Lodge more than two nights in any one year without paying on stated nights the sum of three shillings and nine pence, neither shall any Mason resident of Geo. Town more than three months be permitted to visit without paying the sum of 7s. 6d.

Art. VII.—Every member shall pay into the hands of the Treasurer or his deputy the sum of 3s. 9d. on all stated nights—2s. 6d. for the necessary and incidental expenses of the lodge and 1s. 3d. for a charity fund to be paid three months in advance.

Art. VIII.—\* \* \* 6 pounds for initiation, 3 for fellowcraft and same for M. M.

Art. X.—[As to ballotting] \* \* \* The J. D. shall furnish every member present with a white and black ball and after depositing the ballott Box in some convenient part of the room each member shall ballott, and on two black balls being found such candidate stands rejected.

Art. XI.—\* \* \* and in no one night shall more than 3 be passed to the degree of F. C. nor more than 2 to the sublime degree of M. M.

Art. XIII.—A committee of three to serve three months to furnish refreshments under the direction of the lodge.

The last meeting of the lodge of which there is any record was held December 12, 1796, on which occasion the officers were elected for the ensuing year, an invitation accepted from Federal Lodge, No. 15, to join with them in procession on the next St. John's day, and a bill passed to pay for refreshments furnished at the last meeting, amounting to £1 3s. 9½d., all tending to show that the lodge was then in a vigorous and healthy state, but at some time between that date and 1806 they suspended operations.

Throughout this period Federal Lodge continued in a fairly prosperous condition, and after the collapse of Columbia, No. 19, occupied the Masonic field alone in that part of the new territory constituting the present District of Columbia for the remainder of the century, not only being the exponent of symbolic Masonry, but supporting for a few years, according to the usage of the time, an appendant R. A. Encampment. The ruling spirit of the lodge during the latter years of the

eighteenth century was Alex. McCormick, an indefatigable Masonic worker, to whose individual efforts the lodge was more than once saved from dissolution, and who afterward became the second Grand Master of the District.

Alexandria-Brooke Lodge, No. 47, located at Alexandria, was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Virginia, November 29, 1796, and as it was one of the original lodges uniting to form the Grand Lodge of the District, and as it subsequently, for a period of years, was an important member of the local Masonic confederation, it may properly be considered our property, and its birth and development noted in regular course.

With the closing hours of the century the immortal Washington passed away at his Mt. Vernon home. His life and death, his character and works, are matters of household history the world over, and need no fulsome repetition here; yet a brief sketch of his Masonic career must needs find place in the history of the Fraternity in this jurisdiction, which owes its very existence to his forceful will and which was the object of his especial solicitude and care during the latter years of his life. November 4, 1752, shortly before reaching his majority, he was initiated in Fredericksburg Lodge, No. 4, Fredericksburg, Va.; March 3, 1753, nine days after his twenty-first birthday, he passed to the degree of Fellow-craft, and on the 4th of the succeeding August was raised to the degree of Master Mason. Washington was therefore during his entire adult life a Freemason, and no opportunity was ever permitted by him to pass without manifesting his confidence in and respect for the Fraternity. That he took an active part in the formation and conduct of traveling or army lodges during the Revolution is evidenced by the following statement of Brother Scott, P. G. M. of Virginia, in his address at the laying of the cornerstone of the Washington Monument at Richmond, Va., February 22, 1850: "Frequently when surrounded by a brilliant staff, he would part from the gay assemblage and seek the instruction of the lodge. There lived, in 1842, in our sister State, Ohio, Captain Hugh Maloy, then ninety-three years old, who was initiated a Mason in



the marquee of Washington, he officiating and presiding at the ceremony."

December 27, 1779, a convention of army lodges met at Morristown, N. J., and the subject of a General Grand Lodge was discussed and a committee appointed to address the several existing Grand Lodges on the subject, which, February 7, 1780, was done, and while the name of Washington was not mentioned as first General Grand Master yet it was generally understood to be the choice of the convention. A month previously, at an emergent session of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, it was by ballot determined that it was for the benefit of Masonry that there be "a Grand Master of Masons throughout the United States," and upon ballot "his Excellency, George Washington, Esq., General and Commander-in-Chief," was unanimously elected. Massachusetts, however, concluding that the movement was "premature and inexpedient," and Virginia, the only remaining Grand Lodge, making no movement, the project died. The action of Pennsylvania doubtless gave rise to the historical error, widely prevalent and stoutly maintained, that Gen. Washington was at one time General Grand Master of the United States.

That he was the first Master of Alexandria-Washington Lodge, No. 22, is shown by the fact that the charter is directed to "our illustrious and well-beloved Brother, George Washington, Esq., late General and Commander-in-chief of the forces of the United States of America. \* \* \*" Not only was he an active worker in his own lodge, but by the testimony of cotemporaries we learn that he often visited Lodge No. 39, of Alexandria. The prominent part taken by him in the ceremonies incident to the laying of the cornerstone of the Capitol building has already been touched upon, and of itself effectually sets at rest the malicious assertions appearing from time to time that Washington was not a Mason—a statement so fully controverted by documentary evidence as to require no denial.

The body of the illustrious dead was consigned to the tomb December 18, 1799, the two Alexandria lodges and



REAR 1417 F STREET, N. W., ORIGINALLY KNOWN AS THE LITTLE HOTEL.

Home of Federal Lodge, No. 1, 1796-1804.



PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NEAR FIFTEENTH STREET, N. W., ORIGINALLY KNOWN AS LOVELL'S HOTEL.

First Home of Columbia Lodge, No. 3, 1802-1804.



Federal Lodge of this city uniting as a funeral lodge and being escorted to the vault by an imposing procession in the following order :

Companies of cavalry, artillery and infantry ; military guard of honor ; a led horse, bridled and saddled, with the spurred boots of its late rider in the stirrups, and his sword and gauntlets at the saddle ; the body on a bier covered with a black pall, the tassels of which, three on a side, were held by six colonels of the Revolutionary Army, all Freemasons ; relatives and intimate friends ; funeral lodge of Freemasons ; the municipality of Alexandria ; citizens ; servants of the estate.

As the procession moved to the sound of muffled drums minute guns were fired from a vessel anchored near the wharf.

Upon arrival at the tomb the mourners and Freemasons formed an inner circle enclosed by the military, citizens, and servants. The chaplain of the Alexandria Lodge conducted the burial service from the Book of Common Prayer, and closed with a brief address, after which the Masonic rites were fully performed according to the ancient usage. As bearer of one of the "lesser lights," Brother McCormick entered the tomb, and the unconsumed part of the sperm candle he carried was suitably inscribed and preserved by him, and in 1867 came into possession of the Grand Lodge of the District. According to the custom of the time, refreshments were served throughout the day.

The beginning of the nineteenth century found Masonry languishing on this side of the river, Federal, the lone representative, experiencing a period of depression which, however, soon passed, and when on November 8, 1802, the Grand Lodge of Maryland, upon the recommendation of No. 15, granted a charter to Columbia Lodge, No. 35, with a list of twenty-one members, largely drawn from the employés of the Treasury Department, an era of comparative activity set in. The two lodges in 1804 united in the erection on Eleventh Street, N. W., of the building long known as Union Lodge Room, a more particular account of which is given in another chapter, and by this enterprise placed the Fraternity

on a more substantial and promising footing than it had yet enjoyed.

Over in the East End, or to use a colloquial phrase, "on the Navy Yard," the Masonic leaven was also working, and in response to a petition from "sundry Brethren working under a dispensation in the Navy Yard at Washington," on May 14, 1805, the Grand Lodge of Maryland issued a warrant to Washington Naval Lodge, No. 41. The selection of the name is easily traceable to the location, and perhaps also to the fact that the war with Tripoli had just ended and the country was ringing with the daring deeds of Decatur and his fleet. This latter assumption seems all the more probable because it was in this city that many of the crews from the fleet were discharged. Tradition indeed holds that from this source the lodge obtained large accessions of membership. As a sample of the warrants issued by the Grand Lodge of Maryland at that time the one granted to Naval Lodge, which is still preserved, properly calls for reproduction here as one of the valued documents of the Fraternity:



*To All Whom It May Concern.*

We the GRAND LODGE of the STATE OF MARYLAND of the most Ancient and HONOURABLE FRATERNITY of FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS (according to the OLD INSTITUTION) duly established, constituted and organized for the said STATE Do HEREBY constitute and appoint our trusty and well beloved Brethren JOHN DAVIS of Abel, MASTER, WILLIAM SMITH Senior WARDEN & JOHN CUMMINS Junior WARDEN of a NEW LODGE to be held in the CITY OF WASHINGTON in the DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA by the name of "WASHINGTON NAVAL LODGE" NUMBER FORTY-ONE, and We do HEREBY authorize and empower our said trusty and well beloved Brethren to hold their Lodge at the place hereby appointed and directed at such times as they shall think necessary and convenient and according to the CONSTITUTION of MASONRY and to admit and make FREE MASONS according to the



most HONOURABLE custom of the ROYAL CRAFT in all NATIONS throughout the known WORLD and not contrariwise: AND WE do further authorize and empower our said Brethren and their successors to hear and determine all and singular matters and things relating to the CRAFT within the Jurisdiction of the said Lodge No. 41. AND LASTLY, WE DO HEREBY authorize and empower our said trusty and well beloved Brethren JOHN DAVIS, WILLIAM SMITH, AND JOHN CUMMINS to nominate choose and INSTALL their successors to whom they shall deliver this WARRANT, and invest them with all their Powers and Dignities as FREE MASONS and such successors shall in like manner nominate, choose and Install their successors, &c. &c. such INSTITUTIONS to be upon or near St. JOHN the EVANGELIST'S DAY during the continuance of this LODGE for EVER; PROVIDED always that the said above named Brethren and their successors pay due respect to the RIGHT WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE from whom they have their authority otherwise this WARRANT to be of no FORCE or VIRTUE.

Given under our HANDS and the SEAL OF THE GRAND LODGE at the City of BALTIMORE this fourteenth day of MAY in the Year of our LORD, One thousand eight Hundred and five and of MASONRY, Five thousand eight hundred and five.

JACOB SMALL S. G. W. Pt.

JAMES SMYTH J. G. W. Pt.

SAML. VINCENT G. Sec.

At the same communication of the Grand Lodge there was received and read the proceedings of a lodge held in the City of Washington, termed "The Congressional Lodge," working under a dispensation granted by the Rt. W. G. M., authorizing Bro. Roger Nelson to obtain a charter, and "whereas no other proceedings of said lodge were transmitted, the dues not paid nor the dispensation returned," it was "resolved that no further proceedings take place respecting said lodge and that said lodge be suspended agreeable to the tenor of said dispensation."

Events now moved rapidly. Some little temporary dissension arising between Federal and Naval, the ill-feeling seems to have been carried to the Grand Lodge, and is alleged to have been the cause of the suspension by that body of the charter of Federal, May, 1806, on the charge of having admitted "irreligious and unworthy characters" to membership. Six months later, however, the Grand Lodge removed the suspension on the ground that Federal had not been given a proper hearing and that the information on which the previous action had been based had been found to be erroneous.



An appropriation of \$55 was voted to the lodge to reimburse it for expenses incurred in its defence, and this *amende honorable* clears the record of one of our oldest and most valued lodges.

Over in Georgetown, also, the long dormant Masonic spirit was awakening, and at the communication of the Grand Lodge of Maryland November 6, 1806, a charter was granted to a number of brethren to hold a lodge to be known as Potomac Lodge, No. 43. At the first election of officers Valentine Reintzel, later the first Grand Master of the District, was chosen Master, and under his administration and through his activity the lodge obtained a foothold which has enabled it to weather the storms of more than a century. For the reason that some of the same names appear in the records of Lodge No. 9, Columbia Lodge, No. 19, and Potomac, No. 43, and also because of the fact that fragments of the records of the first two are in the possession of the last named lodge, the conclusion is natural and logical that it may be considered to have been the same lodge with periods of inaction and under different titles.

While not strictly bearing upon the history of events, yet possessing no little value as side-lights to bring into stronger relief the details of the picture of the local Masonic world in those pioneer days, a few extracts from the by-laws of "Potomak" Lodge, No. 43, in force in the year 1807, may properly find place here.

The curiously worded preamble is a gem and is as follows:

We, the Master, officers and members of Potomac Lodge, No. 43, of the most ancient and honorable fraternity of Free and accepted Masons, duly constituted by charter from the Grand Lodge of Maryland, bearing date the 12th day of November, A. D., 1806, and now in open lodge assembled at our lodge-room in Georgetown, this —— day of January, 1807, *Annoque Lucis*, 5807, in order to pay homage and adoration to the Grand Architect, whose divine wisdom having resolved to form the world, and reduced a wild chaos to a fair, regular and permanent system; and who not only traced out the whole plan of the Universe, but gave life and being, form and figure, to every part of what before had been a rude indigested and immovable heap of matter, who said, "Let there be light, and there was light," and the dull, heavy and terreal parts of matter



WILLIAM W. SEATON.  
GRAND MASTER, 1822-1824.



which over clouded the expansion, obeyed the Almighty fiat, and began to range into form and order, and for the purpose of disseminating brotherly love, relief and charity; and to maintain the principles of benevolence and religion inculcated by our Order—have made, established and confirmed the following articles, as a constitutional code, for the government of ourselves and our successors.

\* \* \* \* \*

Art. 1. Sec. 2.—The Lodge shall be opened within thirty minutes of the stated hour of meeting and in case the Master and Wardens should be absent the last Past Master (if a member) shall take the chair; and in case no Past Master should be present the oldest Master Mason shall preside and after offering a prayer to the Divinity for a blessing on our labours proceed to business.

Art. II. Sec. 2.—\* \* \* \$5 accompanying petition, \$15 additional if accepted. \* \* \* and provided also that where there is only one negative the petition shall lye over until the regular meeting next following—and the member who blackballed the candidate shall in the intermediate time make known his objections with the reason of the same to the Master and Wardens who shall be competent to judge whether they are sufficient and if they are adjudged insufficient or if he neglects or refuses to make them known the candidate may then be received.

Sec. 3—Each step balloted for as above.

Art. XII, Sec. 3, provides for fining the Master \$2, the installed officers \$1, and the members 50 cents for non-attendance.

And thus in our hasty survey we have passed through the formative period of organized Masonry in the District of Columbia and stand upon the threshold of our existence as an independent jurisdiction.

## CHAPTER IV.

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### INDEPENDENCE.

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THE BIRTH OF THE GRAND LODGE—PIONEER OFFICERS—FORM  
OF WARRANTS ISSUED TO SUBORDINATE LODGES—  
FORMAL NOTIFICATION TO OTHER GRAND LODGES.

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*"The childhood shows the man as morning shows the day."*

—TENNYSON.

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BY THE END of the first decade of the nineteenth century Masonry was in a comparatively flourishing condition in the District of Columbia, with four lodges, Federal, Columbia, Potomac, and Naval, north, and two, Alexandria-Washington and Alexandria-Brooke, south of the river, and while the aggregate membership did not equal that of many of our present lodges, yet in proportion to the population it was numerically strong and healthfully active. As the local fraternity expanded and prospered there rapidly developed the American spirit of independence, which soon culminated in a successful movement looking to the formation of a Grand Lodge in and for the District.

The history of this movement and the birth of the Grand Lodge, being events of the most vital moment in our local history, demand as full a report as the scope of this work will permit, and so, as succinctly as may be without sacrificing any essential feature, the following account is presented.

The agitation of the subject, covering a period of several years, resulted in the appointment of delegates by the several subordinate lodges and the meeting of those delegates in convention in the then Union Lodge Room, on Eleventh Street,

N. W., December 11, 1810, to consider the advisability of "establishing and organizing a Grand Lodge in and for said District." Alexandria-Washington Lodge alone held aloof, and tho afterward courteously requested to join the union and as courteously declining, still remained friendly and interested, while continuing to hold to its former allegiance. At this convention there were present:

Brothers Alexander McCormick, Patrick Magruder, C. Willis Weaver, Archibald Van Horn, and Charles Glover, of Federal, No. 15; James Galt, Amos Alexander, and James Carson, of Alexandria-Brooke, No. 47; Charles Jones, Orlando Cooke, and Ninian Beall, of Columbia, No. 35; John Davis, of Abel, Shadrach Davis, Joseph Cassin, James Kemp, and David Dobbyn, of Washington Naval, No. 41; Henry Pyfer, Daniel Kurtz, and Lewis P. W. Balch, of Potomac, No. 43.

It having been unanimously resolved that it was right and expedient to establish and organize a Grand Lodge in and for the District of Columbia, it was further resolved to notify the several lodges to appoint deputies to meet in convention January 8, 1811, with full power to form a Grand Lodge and elect and install Grand Officers.

Pursuant to this plan, the authorized deputies met in Union Lodge Room, at 3 P. M. on the date mentioned, and, having resolved that the installed officers of the Grand Lodge should be a Grand Master, a Deputy Grand Master, Grand Senior Warden, Grand Junior Warden, Grand Secretary, and Grand Treasurer, to be elected by ballot (the deputation from each lodge to have collectively one vote), and that not more than one of the five first-named officers should be chosen from the same lodge, proceeded to an election, which resulted as follows:

Valentine Reintzel, Potomac, No. 43, R. W. G. Master; John Kinkaid, Brooke, No. 47, R. W. D. G. Master; Alexander McCormick, Federal, No. 15, R. W. Senior G. Warden; Joseph Cassin, Washington-Naval, No. 41, R. W. Junior G. Warden; and Charles Jones, Columbia, No. 35, R. W. G. Secretary.



The selection of a Grand Treasurer was postponed until the next meeting, and, after the appointment of a committee to prepare and submit a constitution for the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, the Secretary was "requested" to forward copies of the proceedings of the convention to the secretaries of the Grand Lodges of Maryland and Virginia, to be laid before their "respective lodges," and adjournment was had until February 11, 1811, on which date, for reasons impossible to gather from the meager records, further adjournment was taken until the following Tuesday.

No further adjournment being deemed necessary, this latter date, February 19, 1811, saw the convention again in session and witnessed the birth of the Grand Lodge. Brother John Kinkaid, having in the interim passed away, Brother John Richards, of Brooke, No. 47, was duly elected R. W. D. G. Master, and the position of Grand Treasurer was filled by the selection of Brother John Davis, of Abel, of Washington-Naval, No. 41. The Secretary reported that he had, agreeable to the resolution of January 8, forwarded to the secretaries of the Grand Lodges of Maryland and Virginia a copy of the proceedings, and accompanied the same with an explanatory letter in which he had incorporated the request that the lodges here be permitted to retain the warrants under which they were then working.

The Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia then, by unanimous consent of the deputies present, was opened in ample form, when the officers-elect, enumerated above, with the exception of Bro. Chas. Jones, were severally installed and proclaimed as such according to ancient form.

The roster of officers was increased by the selection of Brother Daniel Kurtz, of Potomac, as W. S. Grand Deacon; William O'Neale, of Federal, No. 15, as W. J. Grand Deacon, and Thomas Summers, of Brooke, No. 47, as Grand Tyler.

The committee on preparation of a constitution not being ready to report, a committee to prepare a suitable form of warrant was appointed, and the first meeting of the Grand Lodge closed.



**SAMUEL BURCH,**  
GRAND MASTER, 1825 ; GRAND SECRETARY, 1815-1821.



Tuesday, March 12, 1811, the Grand Lodge met agreeable to adjournment, heard the report of the committee on constitution, which, after consideration and adoption in part, was referred back to said committee for further consideration. The report of the committee on form of warrants was received, considered, and unanimously adopted, and then the Grand Lodge "closed in harmony."

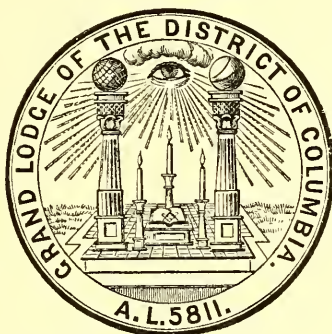
These warrants, while following in a general way the form of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, are our own, and a sample, that of Federal Lodge, No. 1, is therefore given:

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

VALENTINE REINTZEL,  
*Grand Master.*

JOHN RICHARDS,  
*Deputy Grand Master.*



ALEX'R MCCORMICK,  
*Senior Grand Warden.*

JOSEPH CASSIN,  
*Junior Grand Warden.*

## TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Know ye that we, the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of FREE and ACCEPTED MASONS, duly established, constituted, and organized for the said District, by and under the authority of a Convention of Deputies from five Lodges, held at the city of Washington on the nineteenth day of February, in the year of Masonry five thousand eight hundred and eleven, do hereby constitute and appoint our trusty and well-beloved brethren, Nicholas D. Queen, Master; Archibald Van Horn, Senior Warden, and Patrick Magruder, Junior Warden, of a Lodge to be held in the city of Washington, in the said District, by the name of FEDERAL LODGE number one, late Federal Lodge number fifteen, working under the authority from the Grand Lodge of Maryland.

AND WE do hereby authorize and empower our said trusty and beloved brethren, and their successors, duly elected and installed, to hold their Lodge at the place aforesaid at such times as they may deem necessary and convenient, and to admit and make FREE MASONS according to the Most Ancient and Honorable custom of the CRAFT.

AND WE do further authorize and empower said brethren and their successors to hear and determine, all and singular, such matters and things relating to the Craft within the jurisdiction of their said Lodge, with the assistance of the members thereof.

AND LASTLY WE do further authorize and empower our said truly and well-beloved brethren to install their successors, being first duly elected and chosen, to whom they shall deliver this warrant and invest them with all their powers and dignities as Free Masons, and their successors shall in like manner install their successors, &c., &c., &c., such installation to be on or near SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST'S day, during the continuance of this Grand Lodge. PROVIDED ALWAYS, That the said above named brethren and their successors pay due respect to THIS RIGHT WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE and the ordinances thereof; otherwise this warrant to be void and of no effect.

GIVEN in OPEN GRAND LODGE, under the hands of our Right Worshipful Grand Officers and the Seal of our GRAND LODGE, at the City of Washington, this nineteenth day of February, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and eleven, and of MASONRY five thousand eight hundred and eleven.

CHAS. JONES,  
*Secretary.*

Warrants were issued as follows: To Federal, as No. 1; Columbia, as No. 2; Brooke, as No. 3; Naval, as No. 4, and Potomac, as No. 5, all bearing date of February 19, 1811.

At the next meeting, occurring April 9, 1811, the following resolutions were adopted:

*Resolved*, That the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia recommend to the different lodges under its jurisdiction the appointment of delegates to meet the Grand Lodges of Maryland and Virginia at their next grand convention, and that they pay their respective dues to said Grand Lodges, and do all other necessary acts and things in relation to obtaining a discharge therefrom.

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed for the purpose of informing the R. W. Grand Lodges of Maryland and Virginia that we have organized and established a Grand Lodge for the District of Columbia, giving our reasons therefor, and that they request their concurrence therein.

Tuesday, May 21, 1811, the Grand Lodge again met and completed the roster of officers by the election of the following: Andrew T. McCormick, Grand Chaplain; Thomas Arbuckle, S. Grand Deacon; Thomas Holliday, Grand Deacon; Nicholas L. Queen, Grand Marshal; Francis Clark, Grand

Steward; Ninian Beall, Grand Sword Bearer; John McGill, Grand Pursuivant, and Barney Parsons, Grand Tyler, the formerly-elected Grand Tyler, Brother Thomas Summers, having resigned.

This meeting was notable, in the light of the history of subsequent years, in giving birth to the Committee on Correspondence, at that time designated as the "Committee of Communication and Correspondence," with the limited duty of sending out extracts of our proceedings to sister jurisdictions. The important addition of collating and publishing extracts from the proceedings of other jurisdictions, which has proved of such inestimable value, came later.

At the next meeting of the Grand Lodge, July 9, 1811, the Constitution was finally adopted, 100 copies ordered printed, and the committee appointed for that purpose reported that they had prepared and transmitted an address to the Grand Lodges of Maryland and Virginia. While unmistakably recalling the Declaration of Independence and couched in somewhat stilted phrase, this address is a model of the writing of the period, and certainly a Masonic paper of absorbing interest. We quote it in full:

———, *R. W. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of ———*:

RESPECTED SIR AND BROTHER:

When it becomes necessary that a separation should take place with those who have long been united in the tender ties of mutual harmony and intercourse a sense of gratitude and esteem should impel those who desire that separation freely to declare the reasons by which they are actuated. Under this impression we, in behalf of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, beg leave to state the reasons which influenced the lodges in this District in the measure by them taken.

The right and expediency of establishing a Grand Lodge in this District had for a considerable time engaged the attention of the most experienced Masons of this place. Not willing, however, to confide implicitly in their own judgments in a matter of so much importance, experienced Masons from various parts of the United States were consulted, from the decisive nature of whose opinion the practicability of the measure appeared manifest. And at a meeting in convention of deputies from five lodges, after mature consideration, the right and expediency was unanimously declared; and afterward, on the 19th day of February, 1811, the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia was organized and opened in due form, with full appelland and corrective powers, which, under the superintending



care and direction of the Supreme Architect, will promote the interests of the craft and extend the empire of Masonry. The propriety of the measure taken was confirmed by a reference to historic facts. In England Masonry flourished but partially until the organization of the Grand Lodge at York, from which time Masonry, literature, arts, and sciences flourished. The same fruitful source of intelligence extending its benign influence across the Atlantic animated our brethren of the Eastern States, who organized Grand Lodges previous to our Revolution, under authority of charters granted from some one of the Grand Lodges in Great Britain, after which they at once saw the impropriety of working under authority derived from a country having different laws, government, and interests from their own, and accordingly gave up the authority under which they had before acted. There then being no head to resort to, the subordinate lodges of several States, by deputies appointed for that purpose, organized Grand Lodges. It is admitted that necessity urged the adoption of this measure, and that the principle was then acknowledged, and has never since been disputed, and that the lodges of each State were entitled to equal privileges. This District being composed of parts of two States, and separated from them in the same degree as one State is from another, was a circumstance that received considerable weight, in addition to which the desire of uniting and harmonizing the citizens of a district thus situated—the expenses and dues retained among us, and the facility of decision in cases within the jurisdiction of a Grand Lodge, were circumstances that received the consideration due to their importance. Also, this being the seat of government, it was supposed the most proper place to rear the standard of Masonry, that the enlightened and distinguished men of our country may meet and unite in one general system the several Grand Lodges of the United States.

The lodges here have been directed to return the warrants under which they lately worked to the authority from whom they received them, if required, and to settle their accounts. This will be attended to without delay, and experience leads us to believe that when the subject of our proceedings shall be taken into consideration our motives and conduct will receive the sanction of your approbation.

We cannot on this occasion withdraw from you without experiencing those feelings of regret which flow from a lively recollection of favors bestowed on us for a series of years, and expressing that ardent anxiety for your prosperity which will ever animate our hearts. The sensibility of our feelings is, however, somewhat assuaged with the hope that the strong claim of love will forever be preserved bright between us, and that all our designs and all our exertions will tend to promote the general good.

We are, etc.

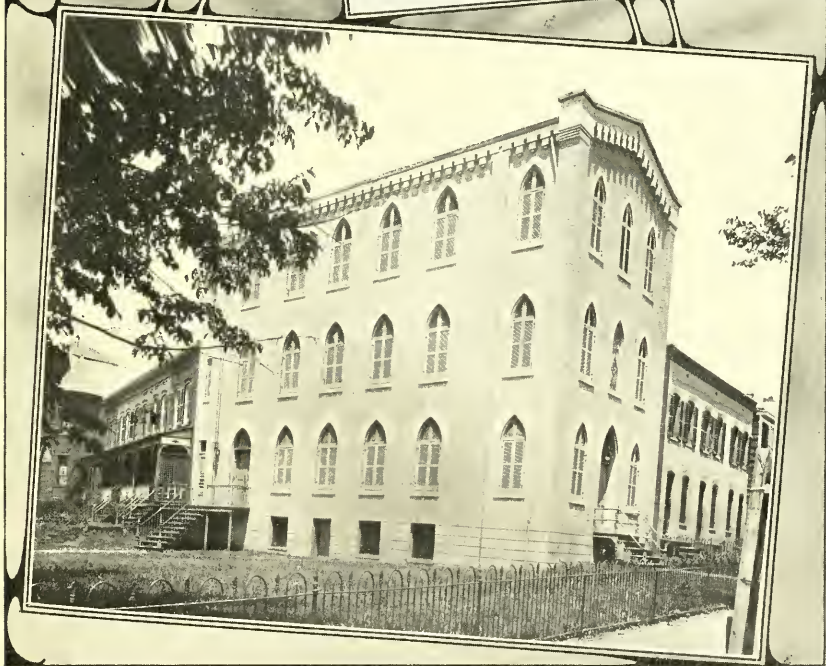
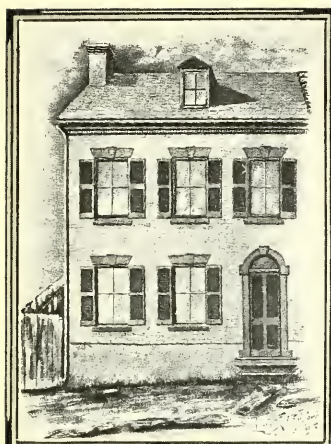
(Signed)

AMOS ALEXANDER,

CHAS. GLOVER,

*Committee.*

City of Washington, May, 1811.



FORMER MEETING PLACES OF NAVAL LODGE, No. 4.

1. 1129 Seventh Street, S. E., 1805-1821.
2. Fifth Street and Virginia Avenue, S. E., 1821-1867.
3. Same, enlarged, 1867-1895.



It will be observed that the committee could not resist the temptation to deftly suggest the iridescent dream of a General Grand Lodge, a subject already claiming the attention of the Fraternity and rapidly gathering enthusiastic exponents.

At the same meeting the following resolution from the Grand Lodge of Maryland was read:

*Resolved*, That the several lodges composing the Grand Lodge of the the District of Columbia, and heretofore working under the authority of this Grand Lodge, be permitted, according to their desire, to retain their warrants; and that, upon the several lodges paying all their dues up to the time of this grand communication, except initiation fees from the time of their formation of said Grand Lodge, they be recognized as a Grand Lodge, and admitted into correspondence accordingly.

(Signed)

J. LEWIS WAMPLER,

*Grand Secretary.*

6th May, A. L. 5811.

This action completed the formal withdrawal from the mother Grand Lodge, a separation amicably effected, and which has never for a moment interfered with the closest and most fraternal connection between the two jurisdictions.

While the usual acknowledgments and good wishes were received from the Grand Lodges of New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Ohio, Kansas, Tennessee, and England, Pennsylvania alone, on the ground that the mere sending of the proceedings covering the formation of a Grand Lodge did not constitute official notification, held aloof, and it was not until the Grand Lodge of the District had entered into lengthy explanations and disclaimed any intention of being disrespectful, and more than a decade had elapsed, that full fraternal correspondence was established between the jurisdictions.

Thus came into being the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia.

## CHAPTER V.

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### IN THE EARLY DAYS.

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UNION LODGE, NO. 6, AND LEBANON LODGE, NO. 7—THE RISE  
AND FALL OF THE GENERAL GRAND LODGE IDEA—  
QUAINT CONSTITUTIONAL REGULATIONS—NOTES.

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*"A few strong instincts and a few plain rules."*—WADSWORTH.

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THE FIRST LODGE to receive its charter from the new Grand Lodge was warranted July 9, 1811, as Union Lodge, No. 6, a lodge formed in the East End, in the territory and upon the recommendation of Naval Lodge, No. 4, and which for many years sustained a most intimate and unique association with the latter body, a detailed account of which may be found in Chapter XV. After a precarious existence of a little over twenty years it surrendered its charter in 1835.

The same year witnessed the birth of Lebanon Lodge, No. 7, which was chartered October 8, 1811, in response to a petition recommended by Federal Lodge, No. 1, and signed by eight brethren, including William Hewitt, subsequently Grand Master.\* This Lodge rapidly forged to the front in point of membership, and in 1821 led all its sister lodges with a roster of thirty-nine names. Lebanon rounds out its first century of continuous activity in the year of this publication.

In the first year of its existence the subject of the formation of a General Grand Lodge came up in the newly-formed grand body. This scheme had been agitated for many years, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, as early as 1780, having considered the propriety of appointing a General Grand Master,

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\* It is worthy of note, too, that the first initiate of the new Lodge, Bro. Roger C. Weightman, also served the jurisdiction as Grand Master in later years.



and having subsequently formally elected General George Washington to that position and invited the Grand Lodges of Virginia and Massachusetts to join the movement; but, the latter bodies holding aloof, the election was not consummated and the matter dropped. In the succeeding years, however, it persisted in coming to the front, and, inasmuch as this jurisdiction in the earlier years took a leading part in the various movements in this direction, it is deemed a matter of sufficient local as well as general Masonic interest to warrant a concise résumé of what has been referred to in the preceding chapter as an "iridescent dream," and, that the reader who is interested in the subject may have placed before him at once the whole story as it affects the District, we digress from chronological order to pursue it to the end.

At the meeting held October 8, 1811, a resolution was passed to appoint delegates to meet similar representatives from other Grand Lodges, with a view of meeting in grand convention in the City of Washington Monday, January 4, 1812, or such other date as might be agreed on, and under this authorization delegates were appointed, but, sufficient interest not being taken by the other jurisdictions in the proposition, the convention was not held, and the matter lay dormant for a decade.

In the issue of the *National Intelligencer* of March 9, 1822, appeared the following notice:

MASONIC NOTICE.—Those members of Congress who belong to the Masonic Fraternity, and those visitors of the city who are or have been members of any State Grand Lodge, are respectfully invited to attend a meeting to be held in the Senate Chamber, this evening, at 7 o'clock, to take into consideration matters of general interest to the Masonic institution.

Pursuant to this notice a notable assembly of Members of Congress and other prominent Masons assembled in the Senate Chamber (the present Supreme Court Room) at the Capitol on the evening referred to. Bro. Thomas R. Ross, a member of Congress from the State of Ohio, was elected Chairman, and Bro. William Darlington, Secretary. This convention, unique and unprecedented in history, when the public



character and prominence of the men engaged, the official character of the place, and the object sought after are considered, was an event of peculiar Masonic importance and interest, both local and general, and deserves far more space than may here be given, yet cannot be passed without a brief report.

After lengthy debate on the general subject, in which the individual views of the speakers were advanced, the following resolutions, offered by Bro. Henry Clay, of Kentucky, were unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, That, in the opinion of this meeting, it is expedient, for the general interests of Freemasonry, to constitute a General Grand Lodge of the United States.

*Resolved*, That it be proposed to the several Grand Lodges in the United States to take the subject into their serious considerations, at their next annual communication, and that, if they approve of the formation of a General Grand Lodge, it be recommended to them to appoint one or more delegates, to assemble in the city of Washington, on the second Monday of February next, to agree on the organization of such Grand Lodge.

*Resolved*, That if two-thirds of the Grand Lodges within the United States concur in the propriety of establishing a General Grand Lodge it be recommended to them to instruct their representatives to proceed to the formation of a constitution of a General Grand Lodge, to be subsequently submitted to the several Grand Lodges in the Union, for their ratification, and which, being ratified by a majority of them, shall be considered as thenceforth binding on all the Grand Lodges assenting thereto.

*Resolved*, That the Most Worshipful John Marshall, of Virginia; Henry Clay, of Kentucky; William H. Winder, of Maryland; William S. Cardell, of New York; Joel Abbott, of Georgia; John Holmes, of Maine; Henry Baldwin, of Pennsylvania; John H. Eaton, of Tennessee; William W. Seaton, of Washington; Christopher Rankin, of Mississippi; Thomas R. Ross, of Ohio; H. G. Burton, of North Carolina, and the Rev. Thaddeus Mason Harris, D. D., of Massachusetts, be, and they hereby are, appointed a committee to open a correspondence with the respective Grand Lodges within the United States, and to take such measures therein as they may deem expedient to carry the aforesaid resolutions into effect.

The committee referred to, in complying with these resolutions, issued a circular letter of some length setting out the growing need of a general governing body and the advantages

M. Grand Lodge D. Cal.  
 1812 To R. Parsons, Steward  
 Tyler D.

June 12. To 2 Larkies each 1.50 & 1.75 3.25  
 " 1 Ham 1.45  
 " 10 loaves bread 62 1/2  
 " 2 Galls cider 64  
 " 1/2 " whiskey 50  
 " 1 Gall Beer 50  
 " Syllabub 2.00  
 1/4 Cord Whiskey wood } \$8.96 1/2  
 Hauling & Sawing &c } 2.81  
 " Sundries furnished on  
 20 Augt 1812 being a day  
 appointed by the President  
 W. D. for fastness & prayer &  
 the expenses incurred by rain  
 & for Syllabub 7.84  
 \$19.61 1/2



to be expected from its establishment. Space permits quoting only one paragraph, which appears to contain the conclusion of the whole matter. It reads:

There are two points which at once present themselves in connection with the idea of establishing a General Grand Lodge of the United States. The first is to acquire, in a correspondence with foreign nations, an elevated stand for the Masonry of this country; to unite with them in maintaining its general principles in their purity; and, secondly, to preserve, between our own States that uniformity in work, and that active interchange of good offices, which would be difficult, if not impossible, by other means.

Inaugurated under such unusual and brilliant auspices, this movement might be supposed to have acquired sufficient initial momentum to carry it to some equally brilliant result, but truth demands the statement that it shared the fate of previous efforts.

The several jurisdictions failed to warm to the subject. Pennsylvania, while disagreeing with the General Grand Lodge proposition, proposed a convention for the purpose of consulting upon the interests of the Order, to be held in Philadelphia, or other suitable place, June 24, 1823. Kentucky followed, by disagreeing with the General Grand Lodge idea and also the substitute offered by Pennsylvania, and, in the face of these discouraging actions, the local Grand Lodge at its meeting in November, 1822, proposed, in the form of a resolution, the establishment of a General Grand Lodge, to meet annually at the seat of government, and appointed delegates to represent it at a meeting to be called at Washington the second Monday of February, 1823.

That this meeting did not take place is evidenced by the fact that at the communication of May 6, 1823, a resolution was passed that an address on the subject be prepared and transmitted to the sister grand lodges calling their renewed attention to the matter of a General Grand Lodge, and asking their co-operation in a convention for that purpose to be held in this city on the third Wednesday of February, 1824.

This attempt proving equally abortive, twenty years elapsed

before any further concerted action was undertaken, which may in part be accounted for by the fact that this was the period embracing the remarkable anti-Masonic wave of sentiment which for a few years swept the country.

On May 8, 1843, however, a National Masonic Convention was held in Baltimore, at which fifteen grand lodges, including our own, were represented, and while the convention was ostensibly in the interest of uniformity of work other matters were taken up, among which was a proposition to form a National Masonic Convention—a modification of the General Grand Lodge idea, which preserved to the several grand lodges their independence—and suggesting Winchester, Va., as the next meeting place.

With this proposition our local body fell in, and appointed delegates to the Winchester convention, which was subsequently scheduled to meet May 11, 1846, upon which date a number of delegates assembled in that city, but, lacking a quorum, transacted no business.

The next movement originated with the Grand Lodge of Maryland, which, in issuing a call for a convention to be held in Baltimore in September, 1847, intimated that it was prepared to submit a constitution for adoption by the General Grand Lodge when formed.

The Grand Lodge of the District, always complaisant as well as progressive, was represented at this convention, which adopted an agreement as to the organization and constitution of the proposed General Grand Lodge, to become effective after sixteen grand lodges had agreed to the same. This attempt, so carefully conceived and carried out, gave promise of success, but was killed by the failure of a majority of the jurisdictions to ratify the constitution, our own Grand Lodge taking the ground that while a "General Grand Lodge was desirable, the Baltimore constitution needed modification to be acceptable."

In the year 1849 several propositions were advanced in the Grand Lodge looking to the formation of a supreme Grand Lodge, and similar movements were started in Maryland and Rhode Island, but without sustained effort or result.

In 1853 the District was represented in a convention proposed by Maine and held at Lexington, Ky., at which it was held to be inexpedient to form a General Grand Lodge, but proposed a National Confederation for specific objects, and called upon the Grand Lodge to ratify this proposition, which would lay all matter of dispute before the Confederation, to be settled by a two-thirds vote; and for the purpose of further maturing the plans a later convention was held in January, 1855, and articles of confederation drawn up, the Grand Lodge of the District, by resolution, becoming party to the same. This proposition, eliminating as it did the vitally objectionable feature of the General Grand Lodge idea—that of loss of independence—seemed destined to succeed, but, like its predecessors, failed of ratification by the requisite number.

Maine again, in 1857, initiated a movement for a General Grand Lodge, which received the sanction of the local grand body but collapsed at the very outset.

A modification of the same general scheme was proposed in 1859, in a convention held in Chicago, at which the late P. G. M. B. B. French was a delegate as proxy for the then Grand Master, George C. Whiting, for the purpose of forming a so-called North American Masonic Congress; but, the proposition being deemed unsatisfactory, it failed to gain adequate support.

The sentiment against a General Grand Lodge was now crystalizing.

The lesson of the years was being learned by the thinkers of the Fraternity, and the absolute futility of any attempt to form a supreme governing body for the various jurisdictions became so strongly impressed upon them that, while several weak attempts have since been made to revive the idea, none have been of sufficient strength and dignity to warrant detailed description.

The experience which has been the outgrowth of these years of struggle has, however, been valuable as a clearer, more definite understanding of the powers and prerogatives of each Grand Lodge within its own jurisdiction has been



reached, a wholesome respect for the rights of sister Grand Lodges gained, and a tacit though unwritten agreement of mutual aid and correspondence attained which makes for practical union and confederation without the sacrifice of individuality.

Returning from this digression to the contemplation of conditions in our infant Grand Lodge, we find that as early as January 14, 1812, the necessity for drastic action to insure attendance at the meetings of the Grand Lodge led to the adoption of the following amendments to the Constitution:

“Each installed Grand Officer who shall not attend the Grand Lodge at each regular or extra meeting, being duly notified thereof, shall pay a fine of five dollars, unless the Lodge may consider the excuse, if any, reasonable.

“Each Lodge failing to be represented by their officers, or to send a deputation duly authorized at each meeting of the Grand Lodge, shall pay a fine of five dollars, provided the Lodge or Master or Wardens thereof, shall be duly notified of such meeting, unless satisfactory excuse shall be given to the Grand Lodge.

“The Lodge to be opened within half an hour after the time appointed in the constitution or notification, in case of an extra meeting, or as soon thereafter as a sufficient representation may appear, and such fines shall be assessed at large on the proceedings.”

As the representatives were elected as such, and were not, as now, the first three officers, it will be understood that in view of the difficulties of communication, the long distances, and the execrable roads, the billet was not a much sought after one. In this connection it is within the memory of a few of the brethren yet with us with whom the author has conversed, that the usual method of reaching the Grand Lodge by the delegates from the outlying lodges was on horseback.

In the first years the Tyler was also the Steward of the Grand Lodge, and that officer was known as the Steward and Tyler, but in 1820 the offices were divorced and a Steward appointed. In 1827, however, the two offices were again united,



ROGER C. WEIGHTMAN,  
GRAND MASTER, 1833.



and while a list of jewels in 1829 shows two Stewards' and one Tyler's jewel, yet the offices continued as one for a number of years, the supplementary title of Steward, however, being lost. In 1864 the appointment of two Stewards was authorized, and the official family as we have it today completed.

As a matter of interest, probably unknown to the later generation of Masons, may be cited the fact that upon the formation of the local Grand Lodge, and for many years thereafter, the masters-elect of the subordinate lodges, and not infrequently the wardens, were installed in that body in a lodge opened in the Past Master's degree. The tendency of the period seemed to be to invest this ceremony with all the dignity and solemnity which properly belongs to it, and which we of the latter days are, perhaps, in our haste, not giving it.

That the matter of proper refreshment for the members of the Grand Lodge at the regular and special meetings was of considerable importance at this time and for a number of years thereafter has documentary confirmation in a sheaf of receipted Tyler's bills, bearing dates in 1811-14, now on the author's desk, and these are so unique, not to say startling, from our present-day viewpoint, that the temptation is strong to give them place here; but as this is inadvisable, we reproduce one as a fair sample, and trust to the good sense of the reader in examining it to make proper allowance for the different standards of that day.

As of course is well known, no uniform blanks for petitions were in use, and as a consequence there are preserved some remarkable efforts in this direction. The two following will serve to illustrate this:

WASHINGTON 2nd Jan. 1809.

The petition of Brother ———— respectfully sheweth that he is a Master Mason and formerly belonged to Philadelphia Lodge, No. 72, and now with the consent of the Bretherin of Federal Lodge, No. 15, wisheth to become a member thereof. Should your petitioner be so happy as to obtain it he will as in duty Bound Ever pray.

—————

GREENLEAF'S POINT, WASHINGTON CITY, *April 24, 1815.*

SIR—According to the Directions you give me I send you this line and in hoaps that you will find the character of me that will be suitable to the purpose that I have mentionned to you and by appling to Lieut. Baden or Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Wise you will find. Sir you will petition for me after you are satisfied of my conduct and by doeing soe you will oblidge yours Intended associate.

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The present secrecy surrounding the condition of the ballot does not seem to have obtained in the early days, as we note an instance in 1815 in one of the lodges where the ballot being passed and “8 black balls appearing, he was of course rejected;” and about the same period it was announced after the ballot that the applicant had been “unanimously rejected.”

Before leaving these interesting glimpses of the time, it is perhaps worthy of note that non-payment of dues was frequently punished by expulsion from all the rights and privileges of Masonry; that subordinate lodges sometimes officiated at the laying of cornerstones, and that it was the custom at the opening of each meeting to have read “the charge and prayer.”

## CHAPTER VI.

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### THE FIRST DECADE.

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WAR OF 1812—ANNUAL VISITATIONS INAUGURATED—FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENCE—PUBLIC APPEARANCES  
—DISCIPLINE—THE FIRST CONSTITUTION.

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*"And Statesmen at her councils met  
Who knew the Seasons."*—TENNYSON.

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THE FIRST DECADE of the existence of the Grand Lodge shows a slight falling off in point of numbers, for while the two new lodges referred to in the preceding chapter were formed within that period they were drawn almost entirely from the other lodges, and altho for the first few years the aggregate membership can only be deduced approximately from fragmentary returns, yet a reasonably accurate computation shows about 250 members in 1814, while the complete returns for 1821 show only a total of 219.

It is not the province of the historian to theorize on the facts presented, for the intelligent reader will draw his own conclusions, yet in seeking an explanation of this apparently retrograde movement attention should be given to the fact that instead of separate units owing allegiance to distant grand bodies the lodges were now welded together with common interests, and responsible to a common authority at their very doors, and this condition might well be supposed to result in the exercise of more especial care in the selection of material and the weeding out of objectionable timber.

At the communication of the Grand Lodge of July 14, 1812,



which, in the quaint phraseology of the day, "closed in ample form and great harmony," a Committee on Correspondence was appointed, which subsequently at each annual communication until November 6, 1821, reported that they found nothing worth the attention of the Grand Lodge, but on the latter date suggested the printing of certain extracts culled from the proceedings of other grand lodges in our own annual publication. The systematic review of the proceedings of our sister grand lodges did not, however, approach its present form until 1849, when quite an exhaustive report was submitted, signed by Brother Charles S. Frailey, Grand Master, 1855-6, and Brother Thomas Miller, since which time this valuable and instructive feature of the annual reports has been handled by a succession of eminent local Masonic writers, among whom it involves no invidious comparison to mention especially our late Brother, Grand Secretary Wm. R. Singleton, whose work along that line was for many years of national reputation, and P. G. M. George W. Baird, the present chairman, a profound student of Masonry, whose work is of the most scholarly character. While a scarcity of funds has from time to time necessitated limiting the space allotted to these unselfish toilers, yet ample recognition of their worth has never been withheld, and the cumulative result of the last half century constitutes a liberal education in Masonic jurisprudence to him who cares to take advantage of the opportunity offered.

The War of 1812, while bringing many exciting and terrifying days to the inhabitants of Washington, especially at the time of the occupation of the city by the British, does not seem to have affected the Fraternity, the destructive work of the troops being confined to the public buildings, private property, in the main, being respected. In the defense of the Capital it is a matter of record that many members of the Fraternity took part either in the force under Commodore Barney or in the militia called out to aid in repelling the invading army. A little later we find among the visitors to the various lodges English and Irish brethren whom it is reason-



**MASONIC HALL, JEFFERSON STREET, GEORGETOWN, D. C.**

Home of Potomac Lodge, No. 5, 1810 to 1840.



**"FORREST HALL" HIGH (NOW THIRTY-SECOND) STREET, GEORGETOWN, D. C.**

Home of Potomac Lodge, No. 5, 1852 to 1859.



able to suppose wore the uniform of the enemy. Once over the threshold of the lodge, however, they met as brethren and not as foes, and who can estimate the vast influence for good that sprang, then as now, from this practical application of the spirit of universal brotherhood?

Systematic correspondence with other jurisdictions was inaugurated by order of the Grand Lodge in 1813, and the year following the proceedings were printed and distributed for the first time, the pamphlet being  $2\frac{1}{2} \times 5$  inches and the bill \$10.

In 1813, also, a resolution was passed to visit the subordinate lodges once a year, and while there is no record of compliance with the order until 1818, yet the former date marks the inauguration of a custom peculiar to the District of Columbia, which has been observed with comparatively few omissions to the present time. From a mere perfunctory business inspection, at which not infrequently several lodges, and on at least one occasion, in 1849, as many as five lodges, would meet in joint session for that purpose, the visitations were later, in the administration of Grand Master Donaldson, made entertaining and instructive by the introduction of competent lecturers with suitable topics, and in the earlier days of this innovation the speakers were selected by the Grand Master, who only in comparatively recent years has given over this duty to the subordinate lodges. The presence of the entire official line of the Grand Lodge at each of the subordinate lodges once a year is, as has been said, only possible in a jurisdiction as compact and limited as this, and is a privilege as unique as it is agreeable and educational.

The year 1813 was one of initiative, for, in addition to the matters above mentioned, a set of jewels was obtained for the grand officers for the first time. According to the custom of the period, the jewels proper were subordinated to the collars, from which they were pendant, the latter being of huge size to our modern local eyes, and in marked contrast to the jewels of the present, with their modest ribbons clasping the neck. The evolution was the work of a century, and has been along a line practically untouched by many other jurisdictions, the

more conservative still holding tenaciously to the elaborate collar.

At the communication of January 10, 1815, it was decided to recognize the services of the Grand Secretary by the payment of a salary, and this was fixed at \$20. This sum was increased and decreased at various times until the Grand Lodge, entering upon an era of comparative prosperity, in the middle of the century, in 1850 increased it to \$100, and in 1872 to \$300, from which time its growth was steady until the present salary of \$1,200 was reached, but has hardly kept pace with the immense increase of the business of the office, which now requires the undivided time and attention of the Grand Secretary. This position, for so many years held by that noted Masonic scholar and writer, the late Brother Wm. R. Singleton, has now been filled for more than ten years by Brother Arvine W. Johnston, who has won an enviable reputation by the acceptable transaction of the arduous duties of his office.

The first public appearance of the new Grand Lodge took place September 14, 1815, when the cornerstone of St. John's Episcopal Church, Sixteenth and H Streets, N. W., was laid according to ancient Masonic usage, R. W. Grand Master Davidson presiding.

During this decade there was also laid the cornerstones of a building for Brooke Lodge, No. 2, at Alexandria, Va., July 8, 1818; of the Second Presbyterian Church, in Georgetown, July 29, 1820, and of the new City Hall, August 22, 1820, the latter being attended with especial ceremony and display and justifying the following brief description:

A procession according to the form usual on such occasions was formed at Union Lodge Room and moved under the command of three grand marshals to Strother's Hall, where, according to the arrangements previously made, it was joined by the clerks of the several judicial tribunals of the District of Columbia, the Clerk of the Supreme Court of the United States, the Marshal of the District of Columbia and his deputies, the Attorney of the United States for the District



of Columbia, Ambassadors from foreign governments and their secretaries, Commissioners of the public buildings, Secretaries and other heads of Departments of the Government of the United States, President of the United States, Master Builders and Principal Architect of the work, officers of the Corporation of the City of Washington, Mayors of the towns of Georgetown and Alexandria, ex-Mayors of Washington, the Boards of Aldermen and Common Council of the City of Washington, officers civil, military, and naval, of the United States, and the citizens of the District of Columbia and the adjoining country generally, and strangers then within the City of Washington. The procession thus formed, augmented by a large concourse of spectators, proceeded to the site, where M. W. Grand Master William Hewitt made an address and after an invocation proceeded to lay the cornerstone with the customary ceremonies, upon the conclusion of which Brother John Law delivered the oration of the occasion.

The first celebration of St. John's day occurred December 27, 1817, on which occasion the Grand Lodge, escorted by the several subordinate lodges and led by a brass band, formed a procession and proceeded to the Protestant Episcopal Church near the Navy Yard and listened to an appropriate discourse by the Rev. Bro. Andrew T. McCormick. It may be said in passing that this method of observing the day was for a number of years a popular one, and invariably included a band and substantial refreshments, the latter feature, indeed, being considered of such paramount importance that when, in a spasm of economy in 1821, the Grand Lodge resolved that not more than \$20 be expended for refreshments at one time, the provision was inserted that this would not apply to St. John's day. A moment's reflection makes this understandable, for the difficulties of travel from one part of the city to another was such that these affairs were practically all-day matters, and it was not only desirable but necessary that food and drink be provided.

In striking contrast with the point of view of the present, is the fact that on October 19, 1819, a resolution was passed by

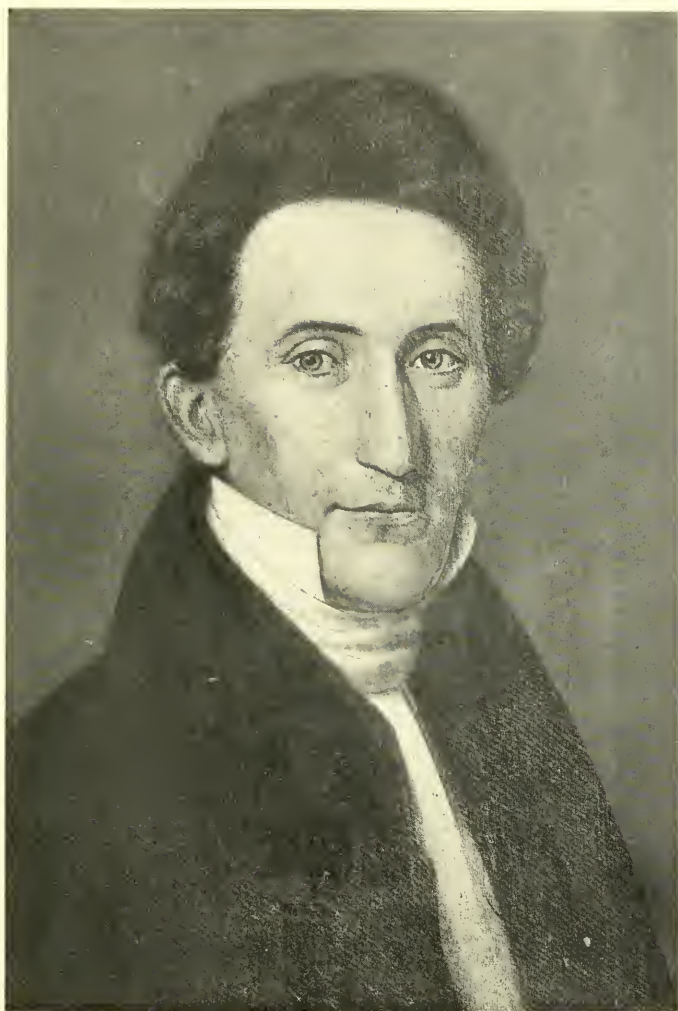


the Grand Lodge to petition Congress to authorize a lottery to raise \$50,000 for the purpose of erecting a Masonic Hall in this city, a favorite method of the time for raising funds for such purposes. No action, however, was taken under the resolution.

The matter of the proper designation of the various officers having been under discussion it was, in 1820, ordered that the appellation of the grand officers be Most Worshipful Grand Master, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, and Right Worshipful Grand Wardens, Secretary, and Treasurer, respectively, while the Masters of the subordinate lodges should be styled Right Worshipful and the Wardens Worshipful. These titles remain unchanged as far as the grand officers are concerned, but have long since been modified in the subordinate bodies, where the simple Worshipful Master and Wardens alone are used.

A standing resolution, which provoked a great deal of discussion in the Grand Lodge and was finally repealed after some years' operation, provided that "it shall be the duty of the lodges working under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge to advertise all expulsions for unmasonic conduct in one or more newspapers published in the District of Columbia after such expulsion shall have been sanctioned by the Grand Lodge."

The matter of disciplining the brethren for unmasonic conduct these days was not neglected, and if in reading over some of the charges and specifications we are in turn shocked and amused, we must, for a proper appreciation of the situation, consider the radical difference between the social conditions of that day and this. Thus fortified we can read with some degree of equanimity of the trial and suspension of Brother ———, in 1815, on the following charge and specification: "Violation of his obligation by entering into and breaking the cellar of my house in the absence of myself and family, and taking out for his own use a quantity of liquor, for which he has never made or offered any explanation or acknowledgment \* \* \*."



WILLIAM W. BILLING,  
GRAND MASTER, 1835-1837.



At a later date, in one of the lodges we find this quaintly-worded entry: "Brother ——— exhibited the following charge against Brother ———: 'Brethren, I hereby charge Brother ——— with unmasonic conduct, inasmuch as he threatened to cut my throat. Yours, respectfully, ———, ———,'"

Again we read as one of the specifications against a brother that he "has been seen by a member of this lodge riding a bull about the streets and acting in an unmasonic manner. \* \* \*."

In another place is shown the charge against a member of the Fraternity, "that he threatened to cowskin a brother."

Happily many of the differences were settled "out of court," it frequently being found only necessary to bring about mutual explanations to effect harmony; but it is indicative of their stern sense of duty that our early predecessors never shirked that most unpleasant of Masonic duties, the trial.

It is a matter of regret that altho 100 copies of the first constitution of the Grand Lodge were printed in 1812, the most diligent search has failed to bring one to light, and, interesting as that document in its entirety would have been, we must perforce be satisfied to judge of it by the few amendments which are of record and which have already been quoted, together with the constitution of 1820, which, being the first available instrument of its kind and possessing the merit of brevity, is quoted in full.

## CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. The Grand Lodge shall meet in the city of Washington on the first Tuesday in every November and May, at 10 o'clock a. m.

Art. 2. The installed officers of the Grand Lodge shall be elected by ballot at the meeting in November, after the business of the Grand Lodge shall have been acted on and disposed of. The officers elected shall be declared as elected for their respective offices from St. John, the Evangelist's Day, inclusive, for one year, or until their successors are elected and installed; and they shall be accordingly so installed and invested as the Lodge may determine, at any time on or before St. John's Day next succeeding the election.

If any officer-elect be absent at the General Installation, the Lodge, or

the Grand Master, shall appoint some suitable brother to install him at some other time and place soon after.

No person shall be declared elected to office who hath not received a majority of all the votes given in on the last ballot.

And in case of the death, removal, resignation, or inability to serve, of any of the officers so elected, the vacancy shall be filled with the least possible delay for the remainder of the term. Notice of resignations to be given at a meeting previous to being acted on, and may be accepted or rejected by the Lodge.

Art. 3. The officers to be elected according to the above articles, are—

1. The Most Worshipful Grand Master.
2. The Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master.
3. The Worshipful Senior Grand Warden.
4. The Worshipful Junior Grand Warden.
5. The Worshipful Grand Secretary.
6. The Worshipful Grand Treasurer.

The officers to be chosen by ballot or otherwise as the members present may agree on, are—

7. Grand Chaplain.
8. Grand Senior Deacon.
9. Grand Junior Deacon.
10. Grand Marshal.
11. Grand Steward.
12. Grand Sword Bearer.
13. Grand Pursuivant.
14. Grand Tyler.

And shall each (except the Tyler) be entitled to a vote on all questions.

Art. 4. Each installed Grand Officer who shall not attend the Grand Lodge at each regular or extra meeting, being duly notified thereof, shall pay a fine of five dollars, unless the Lodge shall consider the excuse, if any, reasonable.

Art. 5. The honorary members of the Grand Lodge are, Past Installed Grand Officers, being members of a lodge, the Master and Wardens of the lodges working under this jurisdiction.

Every Past Master who hath served six months in the chair, being a member of a lodge.

Art. 6. Every lodge, working under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, shall be represented at every meeting of this Lodge by their deputy or deputies, not exceeding five, who shall be Past Master Masons; and each lodge, by their deputy or deputies, shall have a vote on all questions before the Grand Lodge.

Art. 7. Each lodge failing to be represented by their officers, or to send a deputation duly authorized at each meeting of the Grand Lodge, shall pay a fine of five dollars, unless satisfactory excuse shall be given to the Grand Lodge: *Provided*, The lodge, or Master or Wardens thereof, shall be duly notified of such meeting.

Art. 8. The Master and Wardens of a lodge shall be the legal repre-

sentatives, unless the lodges shall think proper to be represented by other members; the names of all deputies thus chosen, to be communicated to the Secretary of this Lodge. A representation from five lodges shall be sufficient to elect or disqualify officers, to expel members, and to act on all cases within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge.

Art. 9. Every lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, shall make a just and true return to this Lodge, at the meeting in November, of all their members, the grade in which they stand, resignations, deaths, rejections, suspensions and expulsions; and for every neglect to make return as aforesaid, shall pay a fine, to this Lodge, of five dollars; they shall pay one dollar for every new-made brother, and fifty cents for every member at each return. Every lodge neglecting to make return and payment of their dues and fines, shall not be allowed to vote by their deputies in this Lodge. And if they refuse or neglect to make return and payment as aforesaid, for two years, the warrant of such lodge or lodges, shall be recalled.

No lodge shall initiate more than five at the same meeting, or any candidate that has been rejected by another lodge under this jurisdiction, within one year after such rejection; nor shall any candidate receive more than one degree at the same meeting (cases of emergency only excepted).

Art. 10. All fines to be assessed at large on the proceedings.

Art. 11. This Grand Lodge shall have, exercise, and enjoy, full and complete appellant and corrective powers, in all cases relating to the Craft, within its jurisdiction, to assess such contributions from time to time, as the good of the Craft may require, to warrant and organize lodges in this District; such warrant to be prepared by the Secretary, and signed by the installed officers; and there shall be paid therefor, before the same is delivered, twenty-five dollars for the use of this Lodge, and five dollars for the Secretary.

Art. 12. The Most Worshipful Grand Master to preside when present; he may call an extra meeting of the Lodge when an emergent occasion shall require; he shall preserve peace and harmony in the Lodge, or cause it to be done. In case of the absence of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master shall preside, and so on to the Junior Warden. And if none of the above-named officers be present, then the senior officer of a lodge, not less than Junior Warden, shall preside, the officers of the senior Lodge to have the preference, in case there be two of the same grade; the presiding Master to make appointments pro tem. to fill all vacancies for the meeting, to decide all questions of order not provided for in this constitution, with the right of an appeal from his decision to the Lodge.

Art. 13. All Past Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters, and Past Grand Wardens, shall, in each grade collectively, be entitled to one vote.

Art. 14. The Past Masters of each lodge present, at any meeting of the Grand Lodge, shall have one vote collectively, but any Past Master otherwise entitled to a separate vote in the Grand Lodge, shall not have a right to a voice in this vote. And if no Past Master be present, from



any lodge which has a Past Master, then the delegates from that lodge shall give the Past Master's vote.

Art. 15. All questions before the Grand Lodge shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the members present, entitled to vote, except on motion (the mover and seconder being of different lodges) it may be determined by a vote by lodges, that the question be taken by lodges.

Art. 16. The members of the Grand Lodge shall take their seats according to the seniority of their respective lodges, and shall not remove from, or change the place assigned them by the Pursuivant during the communication, without the permission of the presiding Master.

Art. 17. No person shall be admitted in the Grand Lodge, before his name shall be announced in the Lodge, and leave given by the presiding Master.

Art. 18. The duty of the Treasurer is, to keep a fair and just account of all moneys received and paid by him, on account of this Lodge, and to exhibit the same to this Lodge at every regular meeting, and, on the order of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, or the presiding officer, attested by the Secretary, to pay any money in his hands or possession, belonging to this Lodge.

Art. 19. The duty of the Secretary is, to keep a fair record of the proceedings of the Lodge, to sign all drafts on the Treasurer, to keep an account with the Treasurer, and with the respective lodges under this jurisdiction, and also to keep an account of all fines incurred under this constitution, and make report thereof to this Lodge at every meeting, to take care of, and safe keep the books, papers, and seal of this Lodge, to issue summonses when directed by the senior officer of this Lodge, in the District, and to do and perform all other duties appertaining to the office of the Secretary; and he shall deliver to this Lodge, or a committee thereof, all books, papers, etc. in his possession, whenever directed so to do by the Lodge.

Art. 20. The duty of the Marshal is to conduct and command all processions of the Grand Lodge, to enforce the orders of this Lodge, or of the presiding Master, and to serve all special summonses.

Art. 21. The duty of the Pursuivant is, to attend the admission of every member or visitor, to see that they enter the Lodge in a proper manner, and that they take and keep the stations assigned them.

Art. 22. The Lodge to be opened within half an hour of the time appointed in the constitution, or in the notification, in case of an extra meeting; or as soon thereafter as a sufficient representation shall appear.

Art. 23. All amendments and additions to this constitution, must be submitted at a previous meeting; or a copy of such alteration, addition or amendment, must be served on and left with the Masters of the several lodges under this jurisdiction, two months previous to being acted on.

The foregoing is the constitution of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, as amended up to the 20th May, A. D. 1820, A. L. 5820, and ordered to be published.

SAMUEL BURCH,

*Secretary Grand Lodge.*

An amendment was adopted May 24, 1822, which grew out of several unsatisfactory experiences and was as follows:

Art. 24. That it shall not be competent for the Grand Lodge to hold any procession or ceremony for the purpose of laying the cornerstone of any edifice, except such building be intended for Masonic purposes, unless the persons requesting the same, or those having an interest in, or superintending the erection of such edifice, shall previously agree to pay all expenses, if any there may be, attending said procession or ceremony, including music and necessary refreshments.

## CHAPTER VII.

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### DARK DAYS AND BRIGHT.

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FIRST MERIDIAN—THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT—FIRST MASONIC TEMPLE—FORMATION OF LODGES 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, AND 13—THE ANTI-MASONIC WAVE—REPRESENTATIVE SYSTEM—CORNERSTONES—NOTES.

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*"Truth forever on the scaffold; Wrong forever on the throne—  
Yet that scaffold sways the future; and behind the dim unknown  
Standeth God within the shadow, keeping watch above his own."*

—LOWELL.

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THAT THE GRAND LODGE at this time had a by no means narrow conception of its duty as a promoter of the public welfare has striking illustration in the fact that there was laid before that body, November 5, 1822, a letter from Brother William Lambert, late of Lebanon, No. 7, accompanied by a printed copy of his report to the President of the United States made in November, 1821, relative to the longitude of the Capitol in the City of Washington, together with a supplemental report on the same subject made in the month of March, 1822, and presented as a testimonial of respect from the author, and upon the reception of which a suitable resolution was passed, which was, at the meeting of May, 1823, amplified into the following:

WHEREAS, this Grand Lodge did at their last annual communication, held on the 5th of November last, declare "that the encouragement and diffusion of learning and science is among the objects embraced by the institution of Masonry," and believing that the measures which have been, and

may be taken for the establishment of a first meridian for the United States at the seat of their government ought to be supported, as tending to lessen, if not to remove, a dependence on Great Britain or other European kingdom, for such meridian; and also to disseminate among our fellow citizens the knowledge of a useful branch of science; therefore,

*Resolved*, That the members of this Grand Lodge will use such influence as they may possess, to induce the proper constituted authorities of this country to carry into effect a national object, in which the inhabitants of the District of Columbia, in common with the citizens of the respective States composing the American Union, must feel themselves materially interested.

At the meeting of May 4, 1824, a resolution was adopted taxing every brother who visited the Grand Lodge fifty cents, to be demanded of him at the door by the Treasurer unless the Grand Lodge saw fit to admit him without payment. This resolution, meeting with natural objection, was only in force until November 1, 1825, when it was repealed.

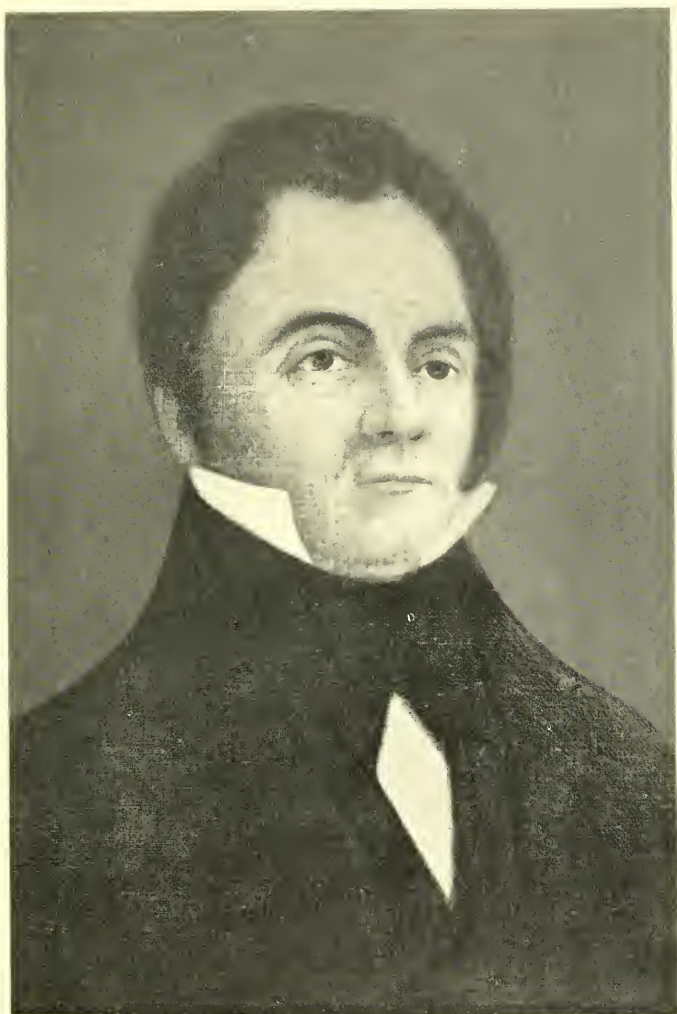
On May 4, 1824, also, the list of lodges was lengthened by the granting of a charter to Humphrey Peake, G. Thornton, Isaac Kell, and other Master Masons, residing in Alexandria, D. C., to form a lodge to be known as "The Evangelical Lodge of Alexandria, No. 8," the M. W. G. M., W. W. Seaton, previously stating that he had granted a dispensation to these brethren April 23, preceding. This lodge, coming into existence close upon the stormy period of Masonic persecution, was not destined to survive, and became extinct in 1843. During its life the Grand Lodge at least once met in its room in Alexandria, in 1838, and it is of record that altho the constitutional hour of convening was 4 P. M., by reason of the delay of the boat in making the "voyage" it was 7 P. M. before the meeting could be held.

As we pass along the beaten track of history we cannot resist the temptation to take note of matters, trivial in themselves and yet not without value as uncovering what to our eyes were unusual conditions, and among these we note that it was the regular custom of the Grand Master to retire from the meetings of the Grand Lodge, frequently for almost the entire time taken for the transaction of business, and return later

with some pomp and circumstance, the Deputy Grand Master in the meantime officiating. Another custom, which obtained on occasion, was appealing from the decision of the Grand Master or acting Grand Master, when in the judgment of the members he was faulty in his interpretation of the constitution or regulations, a proceeding peculiar to the period, wholly without warrant of ancient usage, and happily but comparatively short-lived.

November 2, 1824, The New Jerusalem Lodge, No. 9, was chartered, the Grand Master having previously, on October 4, of the same year, granted a dispensation to said lodge on the petition of William Hewitt (Grand Master 1820, 21, 28, 29), Henry Whetcroft, Thomas Staley, and others, Master Masons. While starting with an unusually small charter list—but eight names appearing on the first return—this lodge has had a steady and prosperous growth and a brilliant career, and now ranks well up near the top in numerical and financial standing.

One of the customs of the Fraternity in this era, to which passing allusion has already been made, was the frequent formation of processions, and this ceremonious public appearance was not confined to funerals and cornerstone layings, as at present, but was usual in their attendance upon divine and memorial services and in public functions not strictly of a Masonic character. A not unusual occurrence was the formation of a procession by a lodge or lodges, accompanied by the children from an orphans' home, a special feature of which was the collection of a voluntary contribution at the end of the march for the benefit of the institution, and it is gratifying to note that these offerings invariably netted a comfortable sum. Any public appearance, whether for a funeral or otherwise, was seldom made without the services of a brass band; but it must be remembered in this connection that carriages were rarely used, that luxurious method of performing a duty coming in with a later age. The obligation to attend the funeral of a deceased brother was properly considered of the first importance and as a result we find the record of numerous gatherings on all these occasions, no stress of weather.



MARMADUKE DOVE,  
GRAND MASTER, 1839.





apparently, operating to prevent the brethren from being present and joining in the solemn march and simple rites that marked the passing of a Master Mason.

The history of Naval Lodge, No. 4, furnishes an instance of unusual and impressive conditions in the burial at 10 o'clock of a mid-winter's night, with the earth covered with snow, of the remains of a brother whose death from small-pox necessitated hasty interment under circumstances which must have stamped the occasion indelibly upon the minds and hearts of every one present, for given but the bare statement of the time and place, the character and purpose of the gathering, and it needs no master hand to paint the scene, but the most sluggish imagination easily conjures up the weird picture with all its awesome details.

As early as November 1, 1825, the Grand Lodge passed a set of resolutions commending the project of erecting a monument to George Washington and pledging its active co-operation and aid in that enterprise, and it is no exaggeration to say that the mammoth obelisk now for many years the pride of the country, owes its existence to the efforts of the Masonic Fraternity in general and the local craft in particular. In this connection it may be stated that Washington's birthday was for many years celebrated annually by the Masons of this jurisdiction with great display and oratory.

On November 1, 1825, the minimum fee for conferring the degrees was fixed at \$20. Following the subject to its conclusion, we find that on November 4, 1834, this sum was reduced to \$15; was later raised to \$21; again, in 1844, reduced to \$16; increased in 1850 to \$21; in 1864 to \$30; in 1867 to \$40; in 1876 to \$45, and in 1889 to \$50, the present figure.

The event of paramount importance in the year 1826 was the laying of the cornerstone of the Masonic Temple at Four-and-a-Half (John Marshall Place) and D Streets, N. W., an enterprise of great moment to the local craft, which, tho unhappily of disastrous termination, marked an era in our history, and is of such interest that a detailed account, not

only of the ceremonies attending the event but the subsequent history and final loss of the building, is given in the chapter devoted to the "Meeting Places of the Fraternity."

On April 10 of the following year the Grand Lodge laid the cornerstone of the First Presbyterian Church, a few doors from the new Masonic Hall, and it is worthy of mention that it was only agreed to perform the function after the Church had obligated itself to pay all expenses. The accounts of the ceremonies show the occasion to have been a most brilliant affair, and an auspicious inauguration of one of our oldest and most influential church organizations. Practically unchanged exteriorly, tho somewhat modernized as to its interior, the building stands to-day as the home of the same congregation.

In this year Masonry took organized form in the old First Ward, Hiram Lodge, No. 10, located in the eastern edifice of the Seven Buildings, north side of Pennsylvania Avenue, between Twenty-first and Twenty-second Streets, N. W., being chartered December 27, 1827, with Thos. Wilson as Master; Thos. Smith, S. W., and Chas. G. Wilcox, J. W. This lodge, successful from the start, while changing its abode a number of times, has never wandered far from the vicinity of its first location, and has for a number of years had its home at the southwest corner of Nineteenth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.

March 29, 1828, witnessed an unusual Masonic demonstration in a joint procession formed by the Grand Lodge and Grand R. A. Chapter to testify to the high respect entertained by the Fraternity for the "exalted character and extensive usefulness" of De Witt Clinton, late Governor of New York and G. G. H. P. of R. A. Masons of the U. S. A., and the subsequent attendance in St. John's Church at a memorial service.

May 31, of the same year, the cornerstone of another church edifice in the immediate neighborhood of the new Temple, Trinity Episcopal, was laid by the Grand Lodge. This church occupied the site now covered by the Columbian Law

Building, Fifth Street, opposite Judiciary Square, and long since passed away, the congregation now meeting in a modern edifice at Third Street and Indiana Avenue.

At about the time of the inauguration of the building enterprise by the Fraternity the great anti-Masonic wave, which had its origin in the alleged abduction and murder of one William Morgan, of Batavia, N. Y., a subject now so familiar to every Mason as to require no extended notice here, began to grow in volume and sweep over the country. By 1829, when Andrew Jackson, P. G. Master of Tennessee, became President, anti-Masonry had become a national issue, and for nearly a decade a political and even social persecution was waged that seriously threatened the life of the Fraternity in this country. Locally the force was felt to an alarming degree, and while a certain accession of membership was traceable to the curiosity aroused by the advertisement given the society, yet many of the weak-kneed fell away, and the various lodges were often reduced to sore straits, and necessarily and sympathetically the Grand Lodge had a serious time to weather the storm. Under the stress Brooke Lodge, No. 2, went out of existence in 1833, Columbia in 1835, Union in the same year, while Federal surrendered its charter in 1836. Brooke Lodge and Union Lodge never revived, but Columbia came to life after thirty years, and Federal remained dormant but one year. It is a matter of tradition so well verified as to amount to history, that Naval Lodge, No. 4, during the height of the disturbance met secretly in the home of the Commandant of the Navy Yard. Over in the West End it is interesting to note that the celebrated and eccentric itinerant preacher, Bro. Lorenzo Dow, who was neither ashamed nor afraid to avow himself a Mason, on May 10, 1830, when the excitement was at flood tide, addressed Potomac Lodge and a large number of visiting brethren on the subject of Masonry. This noted man and Mason died in 1834 and was buried masonically by Potomac Lodge. This lodge also felt the effects of the troublous times, and fell off in membership and interest to such a degree that in 1837 but five meetings were held, but a

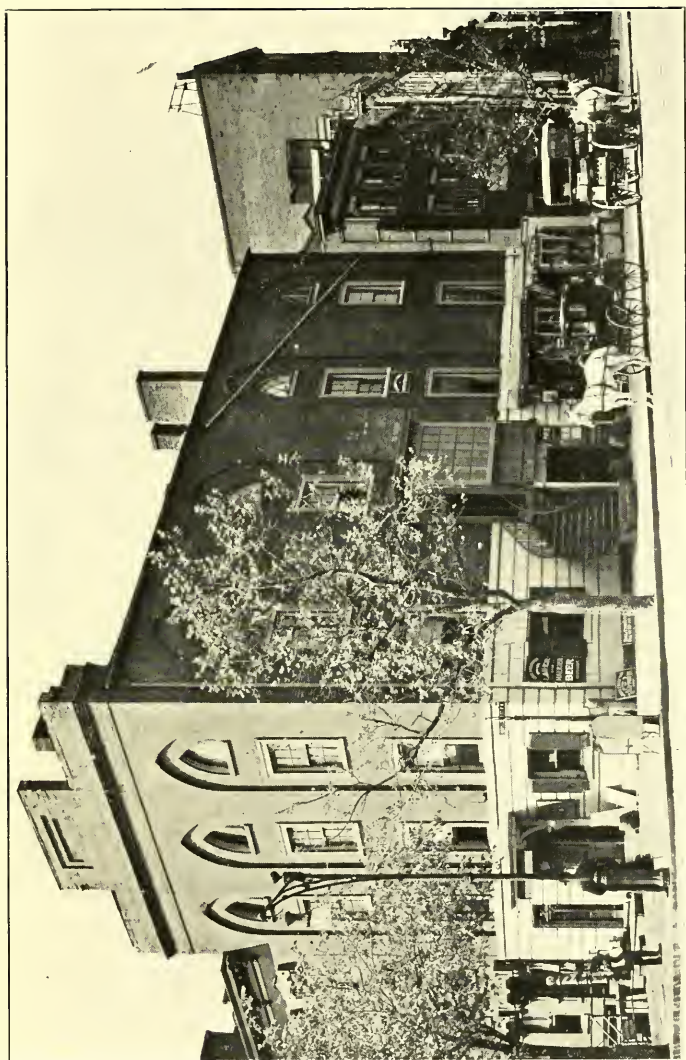
reorganization was effected in 1838 and an era of prosperity entered upon.

Before leaving the subject, some idea of the remarkable condition of affairs may be gathered from the fact that on Sunday, September 13, 1835, one of the usual processions, accompanied by and for the benefit of the orphan children from the Female Orphan Asylum of Washington, was organized in "ancient form," after having been deferred from a previous date, according to the explanation of the Grand Master, "in consequence of the excited state of public feeling, etc." However, there were a sufficient number "left among the living to bury the dead," and, purged of dross, the Fraternity in a few years took a new lease of life which has since known nought but vigorous health and growth.

We have noted the fact that in 1821 full returns gave the aggregate membership as 219. By 1825, altho two new lodges had been instituted in the meantime, the rosters footed up but 227 names. With Hiram added, the rolls in 1828 reached a total of 273; but, owing to the fact that for a period extending from January 1, 1829, to November 4, 1845, no Grand Lodge proceedings were printed and the manuscript data now available is meager and incomplete, no satisfactory estimate can be ventured upon of the increase or decrease numerically during these years, but covering, as the hiatus does, the full period of the Masonic depression, it may be surmised that in point of numbers Masonry reached its lowest ebb in this locality somewhere within these dates, and, indeed, it is of record that absolutely no growth was experienced for the five years preceding the later date.

Struggling along under these adverse conditions, the Grand Lodge was in a continual state of financial stringency, owing not only to the depleted membership but to the inability to collect the fines, and the repeated neglect of some of the lodges to pay their dues, and the dissatisfaction engendered by this embarrassing delinquency reached its culmination in 1832, and led to the introduction of a resolution to recommend the consolidation of Lodges 1 and 3, 4 and 6, and 2 and 8. While





FIRST "CENTRAL" MASONIC HALL, LATER KNOWN AS FREE-MASON'S HALL, FOUR-AND-A-HALF  
(JOHN MARSHALL PLACE) AND D STREETS, N. W.

Home of the Grand Lodge and several subordinate Lodges from 1827 to 1843.





this resolution was subsequently "laid on the table," its introduction serves to show how grievous were the times upon which the Fraternity had fallen.

The period of Masonic depression referred to above did not, however, result in the complete withdrawal of the Craft from public demonstration, for in addition to the procession for the benefit of the Female Orphan Asylum already alluded to there were many other public appearances for similar charitable purposes as well as cornerstone layings, prominent among which latter was that of the United German Church, Twentieth and G Streets, N. W., August 12, 1833, and that of the Methodist Protestant Church, Ninth, between E and F Streets, N. W., in March, 1835, while on January 11, 1836, the cornerstone of Jackson City was laid by P. G. M. Wm. W. Billing, assisted by M. W. Brother Andrew Jackson, P. G. M. of Tennessee and President of the United States. Inaugurated under such auspicious circumstances this embryo city should properly have attained the largest measure of success, but in all charitableness we ring down the curtain upon its subsequent history.

At the very flood-tide of the great wave of persecution evidence is not wanting of life in the local Fraternity and of restless effort to resume all normal functions, and this spirit finds expression in an unsigned paper, bearing date of January, 1836, which appears to indicate an abortive attempt to establish a "Lecture Lodge," the object being, it is fair to presume, mutual improvement in Masonic work and lore through the medium of lectures. In no spirit of mirth or criticism, but simply to retain the atmosphere of the document, unique from every point of view, we quote it literally:

Whereas Masonry has been of great use and benefit to mankind, and Whereas sundry brethern of the fraternity wishing to defuse and instruct each other in the usefull Knowledge of *masonry* and perfect each other in regular mode of working the have formed them selves into a lector Lodge and (whereas) rules are necessary for the government of all assembled bodies, There fore be it resolved the following rules be ad-dobted for the government of Washington Lector Lodge—

- 1st. This Lodge shall be called Washington Lector Lodge.
2. The officers shall consist of Master S & J. Wardens Secry. & Treasurer S. & J. Deacons Tylers and conductor to be elected and appointed, as in a regular lodge, except the election and appointment to take place the first Sunday in each and every month.
3. The meetings to be held on each Sunday in the year at 2 o'clk in the afternoon.
4. All contributions to be levied by the Lodge to defray the expenses thereof.
5. The same decorum shall be observed in this Lodge as in a regular Lodge, both to the officers and to the members.
6. Any member absenting himself from the Lodge two successive meetings shall be fined 12 1-2 c.—unless he give a sufficient excuse then the Lodge may by a majority of the members present, may remit the fine.
7. No bro. who is not a member of a regular Lodge shall be allowed to visit this Lodge unless it be by unanimous consent of the members present.
8. A brother wishing to becoming a member of this Lector Lodge must make application in writing signed by two members of the Lodge and if the bro. is well known he shall be ballotted for and if there be not more than two black balls he shall be admitted a member on his paying the sum of twenty five cents—but should there be three he shall, not be admitted at this meeting but his petition shall be referred to a committee as in a regular lodge and disposed of accordingly—and that the person black Bolt during the time committee may be sitting shall state their reason to the committee.

On November 9, 1838, the Grand Lodge fell into line with the growing custom of resident representation, and December 27, 1838, resolutions were adopted prescribing the rank of such representatives and their proper regalia, and empowering the Grand Master to make appointments at other Masonic seats of government during the recess, such appointments to be submitted to the Grand Lodge at its next meeting for confirmation. Under this action the first exchange of representatives was with the New York jurisdiction, the Grand Master nominating and the Grand Lodge confirming the appointment of Brother Wm. C. Brumett, of that State, our resident representative to the Grand Lodge of New York, and official information being received of the appointment of R. W. Brother Abraham Howard Quincy, of Washington, as local resident representative on the part of the Grand Lodge of New York. The system thus adopted in a

few years and for an extended period met with considerable opposition and was finally entirely lost sight of until revived in 1860 as a new thing, from which time, altho suffering much opposition for a number of years, it held on, and in the latter part of the century took its permanent and undisputed place as a not only useful but necessary institution.

A rather peculiar variation from custom is shown in a communication from a subordinate lodge (Ark, No. 33, Geneva, N. Y.) to this Grand Lodge, in 1848, asking an exchange of representatives, which request was, of course, courteously declined.

The geographical location of the principal centers of population in the then District, constituting three, or indeed four, widely separated communities, with inadequate means of communication, led to the adoption in 1839 of a resolution to elect three Deputy Grand Masters—one for Washington and the Navy Yard, one for Georgetown, and one for Alexandria—with the understanding that when all three were present and the business required one of them to preside that the senior should have the preference. The first election resulted in the selection of T. J. Williams, for Washington; John Myers, for Georgetown; and I. Kell, for Alexandria. This arrangement lasted until 1846, when, Alexandria having been retroceded to Virginia, two Deputy Grand Masters were annually elected until the year 1848, when a return was had to the one Deputy system, which has obtained to this day.

While it is not within the province of this work to enter upon the field of jurisprudence or methods of transacting the business of the Fraternity, it is of sufficient general interest to state that the motion to lay on the table, now grown so abhorrent to us, was in the heyday of its popularity during the middle of the last century, and was sometimes, in the heat of vexing debate, given unusual form, as, for instance, in the Grand Lodge, in 1842, it was moved and seconded that a certain resolution be laid *under* the table, to which was offered a substitute by a Past Grand Master that it be “thrown out of doors.” That a motion should be “thirded” was a

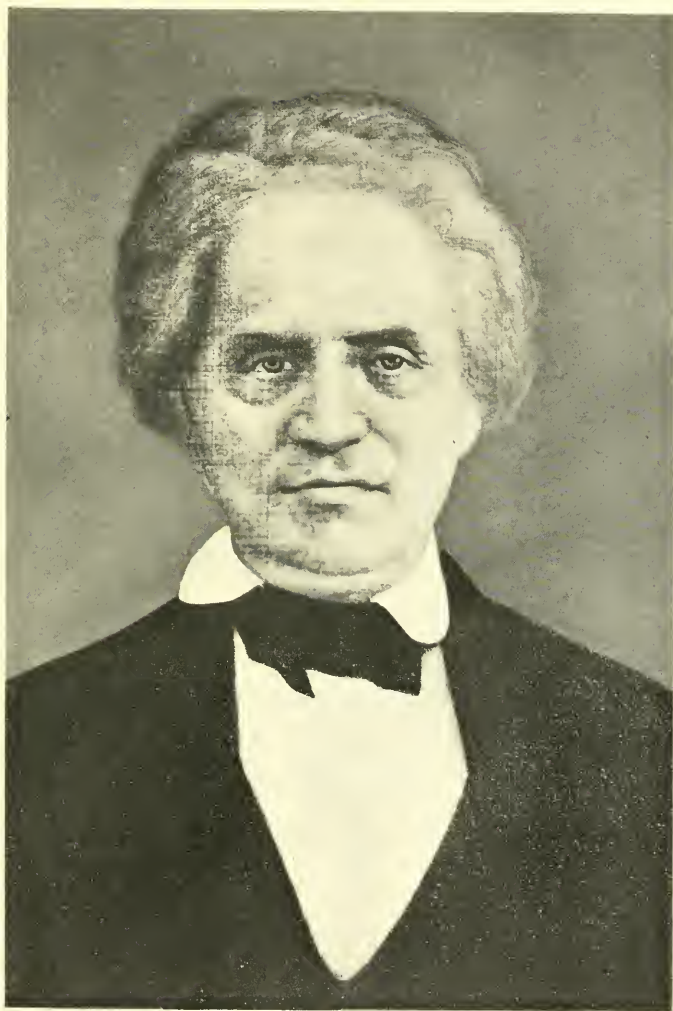
quite usual occurrence. And while we linger for these short glimpses of the small things along the way which are not without their value to the complete picture, we might quote the rather stilted phrase of the period in reference to visitations: "The Grand Marshal formed a procession and made the grand initiation in accordance with ancient usages."

One of the methods of travel is indicated in a letter about this time from the Leesburg, Va., lodge, inviting the Washington lodges to join them in a procession on St. John's Day, and as, in their opinion, music was indispensable for such an affair, they requested that "4 or 5" members of the Marine Band be sent up, and suggested that they might travel with the Alexandria Lodge in the canal boat.

With the demise of Evangelical Lodge, No. 8, which occurred in 1843, passed away the last Alexandria lodge holding a charter from the District, the retrocession by the Government to Virginia of the southern part of the original ten miles square occurring in 1846, and, of course, terminating our jurisdiction over Alexandria and vicinity.

As has been noted in detail in another chapter, the Fraternity, in 1843, finally lost title to Central Masonic Hall, Four-and-a-Half and D Streets, and for several years the Grand Lodge and several subordinate lodges were scattered, the former, with Nos. 1 and 7, finding a home at Twelfth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, and No. 9 in the old Circus Building on C Street, N. W. This separation gave rise to some controversy as to the ownership of the various belongings saved from the old Hall, and, while the final adjustment is of no moment, it is a matter of historical interest to quote the inventory made at the time, covering as it did practically all of the effects of the Grand Lodge and the centrally-located subordinate lodges:

Nine yellow chairs; 9 rods of Steward and Tyler; 1 small table, painted red; 1 small desk; 16 spit-boxes and 1 large chest with No. 35, Columbia Lodge, on it; 1 cupboard No. 7, and 1 picture, presented by Brother Coote to the Grand Lodge; 1 framed chart; 1 small master's carpet, complete; one triple chair; 3 lesser lights and sockets; 1 great light, No. 35, Colum-



CLEMENT T. COOTE,  
GRAND MASTER, 1834.





bia Lodge; 1 Tyler's sword, No. 7; 1 water bucket and large letter G; 18 yellow broad-back chairs and 2 blue-bottom armed chairs at Brother Greer's office.

During this period of trial Potomac Lodge, No. 5, becoming dissatisfied with the Grand Lodge, made persistent efforts extending through the years 1843-44-45, to withdraw from the jurisdiction and unite either with the Grand Lodge of Virginia or that of Maryland. This spirit of unrest was not wholly new, as the matter had been broached on several occasions before, notably in 1830, but the efforts lacked persistence and came to nought. After 1845 the lodge made no further efforts along this line and became, as it has since continued, one of the most valued and progressive members of the Masonic family.

The Fraternity now again began to move out from under the clouds which had so long hovered over it, and the year 1845 marked the birth of an era of prosperity.

In June of that year the Fraternity turned out in great numbers and formed a procession as a tribute of respect to the memory of Brother Andrew Jackson, then lately deceased, and proceeding to the Capitol, in company with a large assembly of citizens listened to an eloquent oration by the historian, the Hon. George Bancroft.

At the installation meeting held December 27, 1845, the petition for a charter for a lodge to be known as St. John's Lodge, No. 11, was received and the charter ordered to issue, Bro. George C. Thomas being named as the first master, Jos. F. Brown as S. W., and John W. Williams as J. W., with an additional charter list of seven names.

This was quickly followed, in May of the following year, by the granting of a charter to National Lodge, No. 12, which had been working under dispensation for a short time, the officers named in the petition being Bro. (Gen.) James Shields as Master, Bro. John McCalla as S. W., and Bro. Hilary Langtry as J. W. The first-named was Commissioner of the General Land Office at this time, but later resigned that office and took a command in Mexico, where he greatly distin-

guished himself. He had the honor on his return of being received at a specially convened session of the Grand Lodge January 3, 1848.

While the usual public appearances were still kept up and a number of cornerstones laid during these latter years, the next affair of importance in this line was the laying of the cornerstone of the Smithsonian Institution, May 1, 1847, by that noted Mason M. W. Brother B. B. French, the Grand Master of the District, assisted by the officers of the Grand Lodge, and having present with him as aides the Grand Master of Pennsylvania and the Grand Master of Maryland. The procession preceding the event was a notable one, and embraced a large concourse of distinguished Masonic individuals and delegations from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. Among those present at the ceremonies were the President of the United States, Brother James K. Polk; the Vice President of the United States, Brother George M. Dallas; the Regents of the Institute, Past Grand Masters, and others.

The apron worn by the Grand Master was the historic one originally presented to Gen. Washington by the Grand Lodge of France through Gen. LaFayette, and worn by the former on the occasion of the laying of the corner-stone of the Capitol, and had been for years in the possession of and zealously guarded by Mt. Nebo Lodge, No. 91, of Shepherds-town, Md., and loaned for this occasion. The gavel was the already famous Washington gavel.

It may be worth while to note in passing that while the Grand Lodge had until this time convened at 10 A. M., the meeting hour in 1847 was changed to 4 P. M., a most inconvenient hour we are prone to conclude, but doubtless adopted with good reason.

On July 4, 1848, the cornerstone of the Washington Monument was laid by the Grand Lodge, M. W. G. M. B. B. French presiding, and again was gathered an unusual concourse of Masons, when the inadequate means of transportation of the day are considered, including delegations from the Grand Lodges of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania,

Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, and Texas.

A brilliant oration was delivered by M. W. Brother French on the life and character of Washington as a Mason, while the general address was made by Hon. R. C. Winthrop, Speaker of the House of Representatives. Among the Masonic relics on the stand was the chair used by Brother Washington when Master of his Lodge, Alexandria-Washington, No. 22, of Virginia, and his apron and sash; the ancient records of Fredericksburg Lodge, showing the entrance of Brother Washington into Masonry, and the gavel used at the Capitol cornerstone laying. The paraphernalia which had once been the property of the Revolutionary hero and distinguished Mason, Gen. Joseph Warren, was also in evidence on the person of a representative from Boston.

In 1848 the remarkable attack of gold fever which drew so many adventurous souls to California broke out with considerable virulence in Washington and caused quite an exodus to the coast. Among the number were some of the Fraternity, and on November 9, 1848, the Grand Lodge on proper petition granted a charter for a lodge to be known as California Lodge, No. 13, to be held in the town of San Francisco, Upper California, and named Samuel Yorke AtLee as Master, Wm. VanVoorhies as S. W., and Bedney F. McDonald as J. W. On December 27, 1848, Brother AtLee having in the meantime resigned, the Grand Lodge confirmed the action of the Grand Master taken during the interim of appointing and having properly installed as Master Brother Levi Stowell in his stead. The latter brother, with the charter in his possession, it was reported, had proceeded to his destination. This lodge, the pioneer in the State, continued in its allegiance to this Grand Lodge until 1850, when it united with other lodges to form the Grand Lodge of California, becoming No. 1, and furnishing the first Grand Master and Grand Secretary. Its separation from this jurisdiction was in the best of feeling, and the local Fraternity has noted with pride its continued success and prosperity.

In 1849 an unusual memorial was received from certain

citizens of Bogoto, New Grenada, addressing themselves to this Grand Lodge as "the centre of light," for the purpose of obtaining "the favor of being constituted a regular lodge in due and ancient form." The memorialists were evidently entirely unfamiliar with the organization, rites, and requirements of Masonry, but were so unmistakably sincere in their desire for light that the Grand Lodge was at considerable pains to inform them of the regulations and prerequisites of organization, and expressed the hope that a sufficient number of Master Masons might be found within their borders to take the proper initiative. Nothing further came of the agitation, however, and the incident closed.

July 17, 1849, was commenced the movement to procure a memorial stone for the Washington Monument, and this was accomplished by subscription and the stone placed in the following year. It is located on the third landing, or first stop, of the elevator, and is of white granulated marble. Its face is six feet by two feet three inches, and bears the inscription "Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia. Our Brother, George Washington." In the center of the inscription are the square and compasses, all in raised work, and within and protected by a heavy molding. In an aperture of the block there were placed a list of the contributors and the last printed proceedings of the Grand Lodge. "Thus," in the language of Grand Master French, "have the Freemasons of this jurisdiction presented their offering at the holy shrine of patriotism."

December 27, 1849, one of the earliest public installations took place, the Grand Lodge, under the escort of the Knights Templar, proceeding to the Unitarian Church, where the M. W. Grand Master, B. B. French, was installed, and upon assuming his station was "saluted according to custom," and delivered one of his eloquent addresses. The subordinate Grand Officers were then installed, as were also the "R. W." Masters-elect of the subordinate lodges. This custom, while observed at intervals until well toward the latter part of the century, has fallen absolutely into disuse, and probably will come as a revelation to many of the younger readers.

## CHAPTER VIII.

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### THE DAWN OF PROSPERITY.

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CLOSING YEARS OF THE HALF CENTURY—CORNERSTONES OF  
CAPITOL, EXTENSION AND SMITHSONIAN INSTITU-  
TION—LODGES 14, 15, AND 16—LODGE  
OF MUTUAL BENEVOLENCE—THE  
LIBRARY—PUBLIC FUNC-  
TIONS—NOTES.

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*"The secret of success is constancy to purpose."*—DISRAELI.

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THE OPENING of the second half of the nineteenth century found the Fraternity, while still numerically weak, the aggregate membership in 1850 amounting to a little less than 300, entering upon an era of comparative prosperity.

As an instance of our cordial relation with sister jurisdictions it is noted that on February 22, 1850, on invitation of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, Grand Master French, attended by a number of the brethren of the District, visited Richmond and participated in the ceremony of laying the cornerstone of the Washington Monument at that place, and was treated with the utmost cordiality and consideration.

That the more modern conception of the function of the Masonic Fraternity, which deprecates a public appearance except for the performance of Masonic duty, was now beginning to assert itself is shown by the fact that, at a special communication held June 18, 1850, the Grand Lodge voted to decline the invitation of the local Washington Monument



Association to take part in a procession and other ceremonies to be held July 4 of that year, "regarding all public displays of the Order as improper which are not necessary to the performance of the duties enjoined upon it."

On May 6, 1851, there was received from sundry citizens of Monrovia, Republic of Liberia, including the President, a petition for a charter for a lodge to be called "Restoration Lodge." This petition did not receive as much consideration, apparently, as the one a few years before from Bogota, New Grenada, but was rejected in a terse resolution of eight words. Had the Grand Lodge acted otherwise, the mind is lost in speculation of what further complication might subsequently have been injected into the troublous question of the standing of lodges of African descent which was soon, and for many years, to plague this jurisdiction.

June 24, of the same year, the Grand Lodge, accompanied by a number of brethren from this and adjacent territory, made a pilgrimage to the Tomb of Washington, and listened to an address by Grand Master French, and on July 4, following, laid the cornerstone of the extension of the Capitol, the latter event being made the occasion of an imposing military and civic display in addition to the Masonic exercises. President Millard Fillmore, in his capacity as the Chief Executive of the Country, was present and took part in the exercises, examined the stone, pronounced it laid, and said: "The Most Worshipful Grand Master of the District of Columbia will now please examine the stone and see that it is *well* laid." This active participation by President Fillmore is especially interesting in view of the fact that some years before, at the beginning of the anti-Masonic excitement, he was a most bitter arraigner of the institution, which he had characterized as "organized treason." After the usual ceremonies Grand Master French made one of his magnificent addresses, and was followed by the Hon. Daniel Webster, then Secretary of State.

On September 2, 1852, a dispensation was granted by the Grand Master authorizing the establishment of a lodge, to

be known as "Centennial Lodge, No. 14," in the old Seventh Ward, better known as the "Island," and now the "Southwest." This Lodge met for a number of years in Island Hall, in that section, but subsequently moved to the central part of the city, leaving the section above referred to without a local Masonic body, in which condition it remains to this day. a remarkable state of affairs when the size of the population and peculiar isolation of the Southwest is considered. The charter issued November 2, 1852.

On December 29, 1852, the M. W. Grand Master, in conformity with the precedent established a few years earlier, declined an invitation on behalf of the Grand Lodge, to be present at the "inauguration" of the equestrian statue of Andrew Jackson, for the reason that no Masonic duty was required, and it may relieve the tedium of the narration to inject the fact that B. B. French, chairman of the Committee on Arrangements, signed the invitation, and B. B. French, Grand Master, courteously declined to consider it.

The cornerstone of the Baptist Church on Thirteenth Street was laid by the Grand Lodge July 21, 1853, and that of the Sixth Presbyterian Church August 10, following.

December 27, 1853, the family of lodges was further enlarged by the granting of a charter to B. B. French Lodge, No. 15, a lodge which rapidly gained in popularity, and is now one of the strongest numerically in the District.

During the year 1854 the cornerstone of three churches were laid: the Western Presbyterian, August 2; Metropolitan Methodist, October 23, and the New Methodist, Georgetown, November 1.

As compared with the growth of previous years the increase in membership was now to become quite marked, the returns for 1854 showing 419 Master Masons, a very substantial gain.

November 7, of this year P. G. Master French, on behalf of twelve Master Masons, presented the Grand Lodge three silver cups, for corn, wine, and oil, which were accepted with thanks, and the Grand Secretary ordered to have one of the

cups fire-gilded (later changed to "otherwise gilded"), and the three marked "Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia." These cups are used to this day on all proper occasions.

At the same communication the first active step toward the formation of a Masonic Library, previously authorized by constitutional amendment, was taken by the appropriation of \$50 for the purchase of books. This appropriation was followed by similar annual appropriations, and by the latter part of 1855 the Library was in existence and a set of rules for the government thereof adopted. At the outset additions were limited to works of a Masonic character, but this limitation was of short duration. The Grand Secretary was in attendance one evening in the week and the Grand Tiler the others, for the purpose of issuing and receiving books. Thus was born that feature of our local Masonic institution which has grown to such stalwart and satisfactory proportions, and in order that the subject may be treated connectedly the story is at once pursued to date.

While comparatively successful for a brief period, the Library soon fell upon evil days, and languished until 1872, when steps were taken looking toward rehabilitating it, and in the new scheme the subordinate lodges were invoked to take an active interest and contribute to the support of the project, the latter, indeed, being made compulsory by the levying of a tax of one dollar annually on any brother who desired to make use of the Library. In addition, donations of books were requested, and in response to this P. G. Master R. B. Donaldson at once presented fifty very valuable works.

In 1873 the Library was enriched by having placed to its credit the sum of \$775, which had been returned by the Chicago Masonic Relief Committee to the Grand Lodge of the District as their share of the unexpended balance of the fund placed in its hands for the relief of the sufferers by the great fire, and with this sum was created the "Chicago Fire Return Library Fund," \$500 being immediately invested, and \$275, together with interest from investment, made available for the proper equipment of the Library and the purchase of



ROBERT KEYWORTH,  
GRAND MASTER, 1840, 1841, 1843.



books. This scheme, however, did not work out with any great degree of smoothness, entailing a continuous three-cornered wrangle between the Committee on Accounts, the Committee on Library, and the Grand Lodge, and in 1878 another appeal was made to the subordinate lodges, this time to secure a general donation of works of a miscellaneous character. By this time, however, the books already in stock numbered 2,843, showing a healthy growth, despite the discouraging conditions surrounding the scheme of maintenance.

In 1878 the Library, having been previously located with the Grand Secretary's office in one of the upper rooms of the Temple at Ninth and F Streets, was moved with the latter to the ground floor, and in 1880 to the room which for thirty years thereafter was to be its home. At the outset of this new tenancy the various lodges outside of the Temple were requested to pay \$2 a month each to assist in paying the rental of the new quarters. All declined with the exception of Hiram, No. 10, which at once consented, and sent six months of its pro rata in advance. The Library Committee, as will be seen, was working at great disadvantage. The annual appropriation of \$50, before alluded to, not always materializing; the Committee had at their disposal frequently only the interest accruing from the invested Chicago Fund, which amounted to \$50, and with the increasing growth of the Library and the necessity of meeting this with the proper cases as well as the services of additional help in the issuing and receipt of books, the items of light, heat, etc., this sum was grossly inadequate. One way and another, tho, the enterprise eked out its existence and grew. A reorganization of the Library, begun in 1880, resulted in the following year in the culling out of a vast number of undesirable public documents and the reduction of the accumulation of works to a rational basis. This cut the aggregate of volumes almost exactly in half, and left 1,582 valuable volumes on the shelves, a handsome nucleus for the projected library, which has become the pride of the jurisdiction. By 1882 the number had increased to 1,820.

In 1883 the Chicago Fire Return Library Fund, amounting



to \$500, which had been invested upon real estate security, and had been yielding an annual interest of 10 per cent., ceased to exist, the trustee of the fund reporting in that year that failure to meet the interest for some years had forced him to sell the property securing it, and no bid being received sufficient to cover the investment it had been bought in by a friend and subsequently deeded to the trustee. Unpaid tax bills, repairs, and bad tenants had caused an outlay greatly in excess of the income, and, the opportunity presenting itself, the property (a frame building on Twenty-second Street) was sold for \$650, which left, after deducting expenses of sale and sums advanced by the trustee, \$524.50 to the credit of the fund, which sum the trustee recommended be turned over to the Library Committee for the purchase of books. This recommendation was amended by inserting the amount \$349.50, and in this shape was approved by the Grand Lodge, which at the same time repealed the resolution of January 8, 1873, creating the fund. Just what disposition was made of the remaining \$175 deponent saith not. The fund thus made available was judiciously used, and resulted in the rapid enlargement of the Library, the following year showing 2,109 volumes; 1885, 2,238; 1886, 2,269; 1887, 2,350; 1888, 2,472; 1889, 2,486; 1890, 2,559; 1891, 2,637; 1892, 2,725; 1893, 2,741; 1894, 2,819; 1895, 2,941; 1896, 2,990; 1897, 2,990; 1898, 3,140; 1899, 3,123; 1900, 3,253; 1901, 3,410; 1902, 3,410; 1903, 3,911; 1904, 4,160; 1905, 4,338; 1906, 4,688; 1907, 5,038. Since the latter date the number has increased rapidly, and now approximates 10,000 volumes.

While the actual duties of the Librarian were for many years discharged by the Grand Secretary, the work finally became of such proportions as to necessitate the employment of an assistant, and in 1901 the late Bro. John N. Birkhead, of Dawson Lodge, No. 16, was appointed. Upon his death, which occurred November 22, 1903, Bro. Paul Neuhaus, P. M. of Hope Lodge, No. 20, a trained and experienced librarian, filled the position until 1906, and upon his demise, during that year, Bro. Armat Stoddart, of Columbia Lodge, No. 3, was appointed, and has most acceptably filled the arduous position

and has practically completed a long-needed card-index catalog of the contents of the shelves. To the executive ability of the chairmen of the Library Committee, notable among whom may be mentioned the late M. W. Bro. Noble D. Larner, of many years' service; M. W. Bro. Lurtin R. Ginn, and Bro. Wm. L. Boyden, also Librarian of the large Scottish Rite Library and the present incumbent since 1903, is largely due the present carefully selected and well regulated library, which compares favorably with the best of such institutions in the country.

August 13, 1855, the cornerstone of the German Reformed Church, D and Four-and-a-Half Streets, S. W., was laid by the Grand Lodge, which also, in the fall of the same year, attended the dedication of the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia, on which latter occasion a large number of the brethren from this jurisdiction were present.

June 24, 1856, witnessed a most notable celebration by the Fraternity, an imposing procession being formed in connection with Columbia R. A. Chapter, No. 15, and, under the escort of Washington Encampment, K. T., proceeded to the Smithsonian Institution, where, in the presence of a large concourse, one of the most eloquent Masonic orations ever listened to was delivered by the late Bro. Byron Sunderland, D. D., for many years a prominent Presbyterian divine and active Mason of this city. Among those present was the late Bro. Gen. Lewis Cass, who occupied a seat on the right of the M. W. Grand Master.

At the communication of May 5, 1857, a charter was granted to Bros. Amos T. Jenkes, P. E. Wilson, E. G. Guest, and nineteen others, to form a lodge to be known as Dawson Lodge, No. 16. This lodge, named after P. G. M. Wm. C. Dawson, of Georgia, well and favorably known in the District of Columbia, has had a most successful career and ranks as one of our flourishing lodges.

The first Past Grand Master's jewel was presented to P. G. Master Charles S. Frailey, March 31, 1857, just two months prior to his death. Owing to his protracted illness the formal

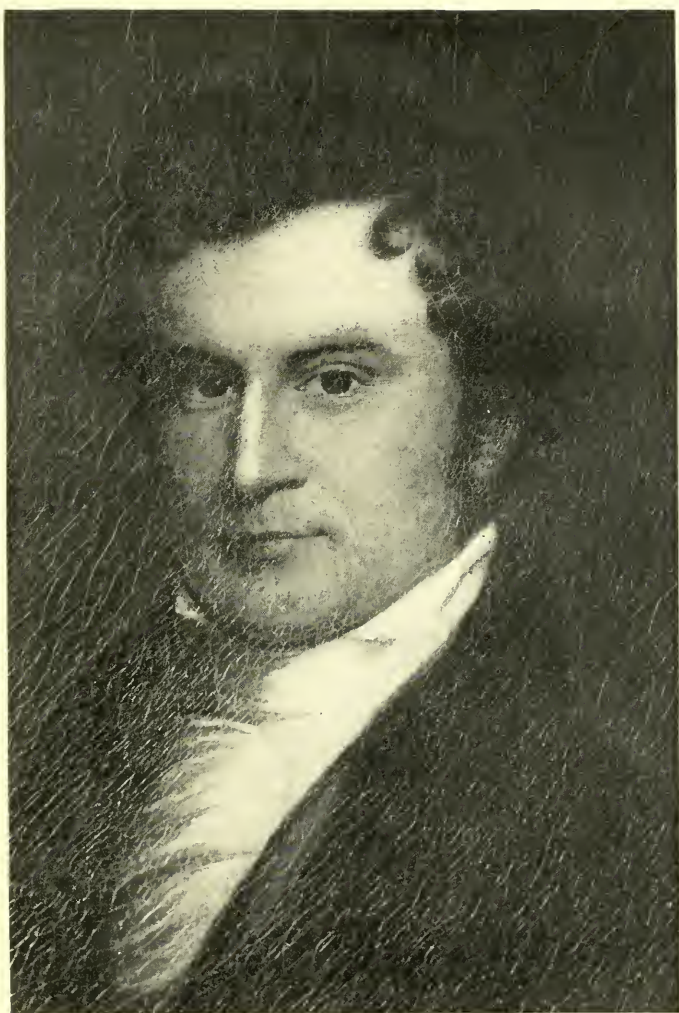
presentation had been postponed from time to time, and was finally made in his sick room. When it was planned to have the presentation made at a meeting of the Grand Lodge the brother to whom the duty was assigned, P. G. Master French, was considerate enough to allow P. G. Master Frailey to inspect not only the jewel but the draft of the remarks he proposed to make on the occasion, about two weeks before the date set. These were the days of great care and formality in speech-making. Thus was inaugurated what, in the course of time, became a custom, now for years unbroken, of fittingly decorating each retiring Grand Master.

The public appearances of the Grand Lodge for the year 1857 included a pilgrimage to Mt. Vernon on June 24, accompanied by Masonic representation from Richmond and Alexandria, and the laying of the cornerstone of Ebenezer M. E. Church, in East Washington, July 31, the Grand Lodge being conveyed to the latter function in omnibusses.

A resolution introduced at the annual communication of this year granting permission to any brother present at the taking of a ballot in a lodge to vote, the only stipulation being that he must be a member in good standing in some lodge in this jurisdiction, was decisively defeated.

February 22, 1858, the Grand Lodge, escorted by a large number of the brethren, made a trip to Richmond, Va., and took part in the ceremonies attending the "inauguration" of the Equestrian Statue of George Washington in that city, and on August 19 laid the cornerstone of a new hall for Potomac Lodge, No. 5, in Georgetown.

In the same year the proposition of a so-called Mt. Vernon Ladies' Association to purchase and preserve for all time the estate of the late Gen. Washington was actively taken up by the Grand Lodge of this, as well as other jurisdictions, and to their material aid is due the ultimate success of this patriotic undertaking. In addition to the encouragement given to the enterprise by the local Fraternity, \$121 was turned over to the Association by the lodges of the jurisdiction—a goodly sum when the limited membership is considered.



*D. Mason*

GRAND MASTER, 1842.





The pressing need of burial sites for indigent Masons dying here without relatives or friends resulted at this time in the purchase of sixty sites in the Congressional Cemetery for that purpose.

October 10, 1859, the cornerstone of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church was laid with imposing ceremonies. This edifice, after the lapse of more than half a century, is still in active use, and is a model of the architecture of that early period.

The reports of the Grand Secretary and Treasurer for this year are notable in that they, for the first time, report "great prosperity" in the jurisdiction, and felicitate the Craft on the skill, competency, and fidelity of the officers in charge of the subordinate lodges.

On November 1, 1859, a charter was granted to a so-called "Lodge of Mutual Benevolence," on the petition of the Masters of the several lodges. This organization was experimental, and designed to handle cases of need, but failed of its purpose and surrendered its charter two years later. No number had been assigned to this unique lodge, and as a consequence its demise left no gap in the numerical sequence.

February 22, 1860, the Grand Lodge, accompanied by its guests, the members of Fredericksburg Lodge, No. 4, of Virginia, and a large attendance of the Craft, proceeded, under the escort of Washington Commandery, K. T., to Washington Circle, and conducted the ceremony of dedicating the Equestrian Statute of Washington. The President of the United States, W. Bro. James Buchanan, P. M., of Lancaster Lodge, No. 43, of Lancaster, Pa., was present as an active participant in the exercises, and delivered the dedicatory address.

At the November communication of this year an elaborate report was submitted by a special committee previously appointed to enquire into the advisability of "districting" the several lodges, with a view of preventing petitioners from applying to any but the lodge nearest their places of residence, and it was developed by this report that while a system of notification between the various lodges was supposed to be



in operation it was so faulty and so carelessly operated as to be worthless, and the committee recommended a resolution confining a petitioner to the lodge nearest to his residence. While the Grand Lodge refused to adopt the resolution, yet the fact of its introduction serves to make understandable the vast difference between many conditions then and now. With the primitive systems of transportation and communication in vogue the various sections were practically as far apart as separate villages, and nothing like the close intimacy of the present day was possible. A citizen of the East End might apply in Georgetown, or even in the central part of the city, and in the absence of notification he would be, for all practical purposes of investigation, a stranger.

With increasing facilities of communication and the adoption of more business-like methods in the Secretary's office, this problem has solved itself, and is handled through the latter official in the shape of weekly bulletins, which give the greatest possible Masonic publicity to all applications and changes.

## CHAPTER IX.

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### THE WAR OF THE REBELLION.

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MILITARY LODGES—UNION LODGE, U. D., OF ALEXANDRIA, VA.—  
CARE OF SICK AND WOUNDED CRAFTSMEN—CHARTERS TO  
HARMONY, NO. 17, ACACIA, NO. 18, AND LAFAYETTE,  
NO. 19—COLUMBIA, NO. 3, REVIVED.

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*"Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."*

—DANIEL WEBSTER.

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IN 1860 THE COUNTRY was in the midst of the fierce political agitation which preceded the War of the Rebellion, and during this period, when brother was turning from brother and father from son, it is a matter of congratulation that no note of discord sounded in the lodge rooms. Brethren went out from the sacred precincts to don the blue or the gray as their sense of duty impelled them, and later met upon the field of battle, perchance, yet always and ever were brethren of the mystic tie, and this brotherhood found its expression throughout the years of the great fratricidal struggle in thousands of instances of alleviation of suffering and the stretching forth of the hand to assist a worthy fallen brother, even tho his uniform chanced to be of a different hue.

All the influence of the great Fraternity was thrown toward the maintenance of peace, and while, in the providence of God, this was not to be, yet who can measure the immensity of the service wrought by the Brotherhood North and South in lessening the horrors of war.

The spirit animating the Craft during the crucial period

before the breaking of the storm finds adequate illustration in an address delivered by P. G. Master French before the Grand Lodge, in his capacity as representative of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana, from which we quote the following brief extract :

The Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, at this political center of a mighty nation, now stretches forth her hand and grasps the proffered one from the far South, and holds it with that earnest, affectionate, and fraternal grasp, which, if translated into language, would say, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

Would to God there were in these times of national trouble more of the *spirit* of Freemasonry animating the hearts of all. Then would "the North give up and the South keep not back;" then would fraternity, union, harmony prevail; then would this great and powerful Nation stand on the rock of ages, firm and immovable, and in vain would the ocean of political disappointment dash at its base. Now, owing to the uncircumscribed passions of men for gain and for power, the great ship of state trembles amid the waves, and to Him alone who can say to the foaming billows, "Peace, be still," and they obey Him, can we now look for aid in this our hour of peril.

When the first gun was fired, and Washington was suddenly transformed into an immense military camp with hundreds of hospitals crowded with the maimed and dying, the local Fraternity were face to face with perhaps the greatest task ever forced upon a comparatively small body of men in the name of duty. Right nobly they met it, and for four years gave of their time and means to lighten the burden of sorrow pressing heavily all about them, caring for the sick and wounded, substantially aiding the distressed, and giving Masonic burial to those sojourning brethren who had "Given the last full measure of devotion to their country." In addition to these common acts of humanity the years were crowded with instances of fellowship and self-sacrificing brotherhood of a character not proper to be written, but which may well be left to the imagination of the enlightened reader.

The subject is a tempting one, and yet must not be pursued too far, nor to the entire exclusion of the important local Masonic events which have their bearing on our subsequent history.



"ODEON HALL," PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE AND JOHN MARSHALL PLACE, N. W.

First Home of St. John's Lodge, No. 11. Nos. 1 and 9 also probably met in this building for a short time.



"EASTERN EDIFICE OF THE SEVEN BUILDINGS," CORNER PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE AND NINETEENTH STREET, N. W.

First meeting place of Hiram Lodge, No. 10.



The subject of military lodges early came before the Grand Lodge, and was met in the broad and liberal spirit which was and should be characteristic of the Fraternity; and while a large number of these lodges were formed during the war in our midst, no slightest question of jurisdiction nor trouble of any character whatever marred the perfect harmony of their relations with the local Craft.

As this is a matter of more than passing interest, and only to be grasped intelligently as a whole, the subject is adhered to at the temporary sacrifice of chronological order.

At the communication of May 7, 1861, Grand Master Whiting laid before the Grand Lodge correspondence with the Grand Master of Rhode Island, in which the latter advised him that he had granted a dispensation to certain Masons serving in the Rhode Island regiment then stationed at Washington to meet as a lodge for social intercourse and improvement, but not for work. To this communication G. M. Whiting courteously responded, commending the action and offering on his part to grant a further dispensation, upon proper application, for these brethren to do work.

At the same time the Grand Master advised the Grand Lodge that he was in receipt of an application from certain brethren of the Seventh Regiment of New York Volunteer Militia for a dispensation to open a military lodge, whereupon the Grand Lodge unanimously adopted the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia advise that the M. W. G. Master grant special dispensations to such regiments or corps of volunteers of the several States now in the service of the United States, in this jurisdiction, as he may deem proper, to hold Occasional or Camp Lodges: *Provided*, That such dispensations shall only extend to the members of their respective regiments or corps.

Subsequently Dep. G. Master Y. P. Page, in the absence of G. Master Stansbury, issued a dispensation to Bro. Marshall, Lefferts, Colonel of the Seventh Regiment, National Guard of the State of New York, and seventy-two others, members of that regiment, to open and hold a camp lodge with-



in the body of said regiment, under the name and style of "National Guard Lodge," for mutual instruction and Masonic intercourse.

On September 24, 1861, a dispensation was also granted to Col. Horatio G. Sickel and ten others, brethren of the Third Regiment Pennsylvania Reserve Corps, to open a lodge in the body of that regiment for the same purpose, to be known as "The Potomac Lodge."

January 14, 1862, G. Master Stansbury, upon the petition of a constitutional number of brethren of the Fifty-ninth Regiment, New York State Volunteers, granted a dispensation to enable them to open a camp lodge to be known as "Good Hope Lodge," the colonel of the regiment, Bro. Wm. Linn Tidball, being designated as W. M.

In the early part of the following year G. Master Page granted a similar dispensation to a number of brethren to open and hold a camp lodge within the Third Brigade, First Division, Fifth Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, to be known as the "Lodge of the Union."

The history of one other temporary lodge, coming into existence by reason of the troubled conditions at our doors, constitutes one of the most interesting Masonic stories of the period of the war, and is here briefly summarized.

In 1862 the loyal Masons of Alexandria found themselves, through the alleged action of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, shut off entirely from their natural Masonic rights, that Grand Lodge having, it was alleged, forbidden those working under its jurisdiction to hold Masonic intercourse with Masons adhering to their allegiance to the Union.

In these straightened circumstances they applied for a dispensation to G. Master Stansbury to open a lodge in the city of Alexandria, to be known as "Union Lodge." The situation being a most peculiar and delicate one, the Grand Master deemed it expedient to convene the Grand Lodge in special session, at which special and an adjourned meeting the subject was thoroughly discussed, and the conclusion reached that inasmuch as the Grand Lodge of Virginia had excommunicated

the loyal Masons within her geographical limits they occupied the same position as residents of a territory in which no Grand Lodge existed, and therefore might with propriety apply for recognition to any jurisdiction they might elect; and in accordance with this conclusion the Grand Lodge, by a vote of two to one, on February 15, 1862, signified to the Grand Master its approval of such dispensation, and under this resolution it was granted February 22, 1862, Theodore G. Palmer being named as Master, and the title, "Union Lodge, U. D.," adopted.

In reporting his action at the semi-annual communication in May, the Grand Master disclaimed any intention of encroaching on the territory of Virginia, and intimated that when that Grand Lodge should have resumed its normal jurisdiction the dispensation would be returned, and upon his recommendation the dispensation was continued. The dispensation was again renewed November 4, 1862, and at the annual communication of 1863, the Grand Lodge, however, refusing to grant a charter; but at the installation communication of 1864, upon the presentation of the fact that Andrew Jackson Lodge, No. 120, of Alexandria, Va., had resumed labor, the dispensation was withdrawn, and, in view of certain criticisms by several sister Grand Lodges of the action of this jurisdiction, a committee was appointed to examine into the whole matter, which committee reported May 2, 1865, at length, and uncovered the fact that the alleged action of the Grand Lodge of Virginia which had been the primary cause of the granting of the dispensation, *i. e.*, that of forbidding those working under its jurisdiction to hold Masonic intercourse with Masons adhering to their allegiance to the Union, had in reality never been taken by that grand body, and that the assumption of jurisdiction was brought about through a misapprehension. The Grand Lodge immediately decided to make the *amende honorable* to our sister Grand Lodge, and appointed a committee, consisting of P. G. Masters French and Donaldson and Bro. E. L. Stevens, to wait on that body in person and explain and reconcile the matters in question.

Accordingly, in December of that year, the committee proceeded to Richmond and were most cordially received by the Grand Lodge, then in session, and, a committee of five having been appointed to confer with our representatives, an amicable adjustment of the case was reached, the Grand Lodge of the District acknowledging its error and offering to turn over all sums received from Union Lodge, and the Grand Lodge of Virginia graciously accepting the apology and incidentally the proffer of the money.

There was, however, a fly in the ointment, which yet for a short period strained the relations of the two jurisdictions. The Grand Lodge of Virginia, in its resolution of acceptance of the overtures of the District, stated that the brethren made in Union Lodge would be recognized as lawfully made brethren "when properly *healed*."

Naturally and inevitably the local body took the ground that no Mason made under its authority needed "healing," and called upon the Grand Lodge of Virginia to rescind the objectionable phrase and made the payment of the promised Union Lodge moneys provisional upon such elimination. This position was such a proper one, and backed by the expressed opinion of so many of the other jurisdictions, that Virginia, at its next annual communication gracefully receded and rescinded the obnoxious words, and this action being immediately followed by the transmission by this Grand Lodge of \$830.85, the sum in question, amicable relations were again completely restored and have existed to the present day.

Union Lodge having during its existence occupied the hall of Alexandria-Washington Lodge, No. 22, the latter lodge in 1865 made a claim against the Grand Lodge of Virginia for the sum of \$550 for compensation, and this amount was subsequently paid them from the money received from the District of Columbia.

By the latter part of 1862 the demands upon the local Fraternity for the relief of sick and wounded brethren became so great that the Grand Lodge was called in special session in November of that year to consider ways and means of meeting

it, and as a result of this meeting it was proposed to the subordinate lodges that they appoint representatives to form a committee which should devise a system of relief and have entire charge of its installation. While it is not of record that this committee ever came into active existence, yet the various lodges continued the good work as it was presented to each until toward the close of the war when, St. John's taking the initiative, a concerted movement was put on foot and participated in by most of the other Masonic bodies looking to systematic relief, and this was extended to Federal and Confederate brethren alike until the city finally resumed its normal condition.

The period of the Rebellion, while imposing great labor and responsibility upon the Fraternity, witnessed a remarkable growth in numerical strength, the returns for 1863 showing an aggregate of 1,233 Master Masons, and that of 1865, 1,720. The logical effect of this increase was the formation of new lodges. First among these for the period alluded to was that of Harmony Lodge, No. 17, chartered May 5, 1863, Bro. J. W. D. Gray being installed as the first Master, Wm. Blair Lord the first Senior Warden, and E. C. Eckloff the first Junior Warden. This lodge at once took rank with the active, progressive lodges of the jurisdiction, which position it has ever since retained.

At a special meeting held June 24, 1863, an invitation to be present and participate in certain public ceremonies contemplated for July 4, was considered by the Grand Lodge, and the committee in charge of the affair notified that, inasmuch as the Masonic Fraternity was not accustomed to make public demonstrations except to perform some Masonic labor, and it not appearing that any such duty was required of them on the occasion in question, the invitation was courteously declined in so far as their participation in a conventional character was concerned. The attitude of the Fraternity toward participation in non-Masonic functions was thus again clearly defined, and the incident constituted a precedent which has subsequently never been departed from.

The untimely demise of Grand Master Page, one of the most brilliant and promising Masons in the history of the jurisdiction, occurring September 26, 1863, the Grand Lodge attended the funeral September 28, and later, on the evening of October 3, was present as a body at a memorial service held in Naval Lodge room, on which occasion a eulogy was pronounced upon the deceased by P. G. Master French, which is preserved to us and is a classic.

December 28, 1863, witnessed the birth of twins in the rapidly increasing Masonic family, Acacia Lodge, No. 18, and LaFayette Lodge, No. 19, being granted charters on that date, the first upon the recommendation of St. John's Lodge, No. 11, and the latter being vouched for by B. B. French Lodge, No. 15. At a resumed communication December 30, 1863, both lodges in turn were instituted and their officers installed, Acacia coming first and acquiring the first number. Brothers Z. D. Gilman, J. W. Jennings, and W. H. Baldwin appear as the first three officers of Acacia Lodge, and Brothers Chauncey Smith, F. H. Barroll, and M. V. W. Weaver filled the corresponding positions in LaFayette.

July 20, 1864, the Grand Lodge made its only public appearance for the year, the occasion being the laying of the cornerstone of the new Foundry M. E. Church, Fourteenth and G Streets, N. W., while the laying of the cornerstone of the Washington City Orphan Asylum, corner Fourteenth and S Streets, N. W., July 13, 1865, was the only public demonstration that marked the latter year.

Columbia Lodge, No. 3, dormant for nearly three decades, at this time began to show signs of returning consciousness, but altho an application for the return of the charter was made December 28, 1863, it was not called up until the communication of the Grand Lodge, November 1, 1864, and action was then still further delayed by the decision of the Grand Master that the application did not meet the constitutional requirements in the matter of signatures. The petition being again under consideration, the Grand Master was authorized by resolution to return the charter to any five brethren who had



been *bona fide* members of No. 3 at the time of the surrender, and under this authorization the charter was restored April 12, 1865, Brothers J. R. Thompson, T. B. Campbell, and W. H. Suttan being elected and installed the first three officers the same evening. The subsequent history of this lodge is one of unbroken activity and prosperity.

At the communication of November 1, 1864, a petition was also received from Brothers E. H. Kern, Charles Herzberg, S. Furst, and eleven others, praying for a charter to form a new lodge to be known as "King Solomon's Lodge, No. 20," and presenting the recommendation of LaFayette Lodge, No. 19. Action on the petition was postponed until December 27, upon which date the prayer of the petitioners was refused, an event unique in the history of this jurisdiction. It is interesting to note in passing that forty years later the name, with another number, was appropriated by a successful local lodge.

In the latter part of this year the Grand Lodge Constitution was revised, and the care which was apparently given this important work is evidenced by the fact that its consideration occupied the Grand Lodge throughout six special meetings. This Constitution, being within the reach of every interested Mason, is not quoted in full, but the following extracts serve to show the more important changes and amendments as compared with the instrument approved in 1820, altho it must not be inferred therefrom that the changes noted were all new in 1864, for many of them were incorporated as early as 1828, and later in a revision covering 1847-50, and the constitution in question is only handled for comparison, as being the one in force after the first half century of the existence of the Grand Lodge, and the one in the revision of which apparently the greatest care had been taken. So well was the work done that in all essential features it remains in force to this day, with only such few immaterial amendments as the changing conditions have necessitated.

Sec. 1, Art. 1, provides that "This Grand Lodge shall be styled 'The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the District of Columbia.'"



Sec. 2 provides for a third communication to be held on St. John the Evangelist Day, and places the hour of convening at 4 P. M.

Sec. 4 requires all members of the Grand Lodge to be properly invested with their clothing and jewels before taking their seats.

Sec. 1, Art. 11, designates the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden, the Junior Grand Warden, the Grand Secretary, and the Grand Treasurer as "Right Worshipful;" the Grand Chaplain, "Rev. and Worshipful," and the remaining officers, with the exception of the Grand Tiler, as "Worshipful," and shows in addition a "Worshipful" Grand Visitor and Lecturer, and two Stewards.

The clause imposing a fine for non-attendance is conspicuous by its absence.

In the succeeding Articles the duties of the Grand Lecturer, the Grand Master, and the other Grand Officers are set out in substantially the same detail as appears in our present Constitution, while the Articles relating to subordinate lodges, dispensations, charters, and diplomas and standing committees are practically identical with the present law, the Committee on Work and Lectures being the only one authorized at present that was not in existence at the time referred to.

As has been fully set forth in the chapter devoted to the meeting places of the Fraternity, the movement looking to the erection of a new temple, originating in 1858, took definite shape in 1864-5, an Act of Congress incorporating the Masonic Hall Association of the District of Columbia being passed April 22, 1864, and the site at the corner of Ninth and F Streets, N. W., subsequently purchased.

The accidental drowning, October 10, 1866, of Bro. W. C. Parkhurst, Senior Grand Warden and one of the brightest of our early chairmen of the Committee on Correspondence, cut off a most promising career, and was universally deplored in this and other jurisdictions where he was well known, and robbed the local fraternity of one of its brilliant and useful leaders.



WILLIAM M. ELLIS,  
GRAND MASTER, 1844.



## CHAPTER X.

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### A REAWAKENING.

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CHARTERS ISSUED TO LODGES NOS. 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, AND 25—  
 CITIZENSHIP AND JURISDICTION—RECEPTION TO  
 EARL DE GRAY—DEATHS OF M. W. BROTHERS  
 GEORGE C. WHITING, BENJAMIN B. FRENCH,  
 ROGER C. WEIGHTMAN, J. E. F. HOL-  
 MEAD, CHARLES F. STANSBURY, AND  
 BRO. JAMES A. GARFIELD.

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*"Yet I doubt not thro the ages one increasing purpose runs  
 And the thoughts of men are widened with the process of the suns."*  
 —TENNYSON.

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WITH THE CLOSE OF THE WAR a new era dawned upon the City of Washington, an era of awakening, of rapid growth, and of material prosperity, which naturally and inevitably was shared by the Masonic Fraternity. The keynote of the awakening was Hope, and it was eminently fitting, therefore, that the founders of Lodge, No. 20, which was chartered May 7, 1867, and instituted the 28th of the same month, should seek no further for an appropriate lodge designation. The spirit of enthusiasm and optimism which inaugurated the enterprise and dictated the happy selection of a name has been characteristic of the lodge in its subsequent history and has brought it well up in the front rank of local Masonry. The petition for a charter was signed by Bro. J. C. Kondrup and thirty-five others, and the first report shows Bros. Henry V.

Cole as W. M.; Samuel Houston, S. W., and William Mertz, J. W., and a slight numerical gain.

The formation of the newly created Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the District was taken cognizance of by the Grand Lodge by a resolution to attend its constitution May 23, 1867, which action is interesting in view of the wholly unwarranted attitude sometimes assumed within symbolic circles of affecting ignorance of all appendant Orders, which attitude, however, it is a pleasure to note, has never been pronounced in this jurisdiction, the intercourse between the several allied Orders of the System being marked by a spirit of comity as unusual as it is satisfactory.

The cornerstone of the First Baptist Church of Georgetown, D. C., was laid August 22, 1867; of a chapel and schoolhouse belonging to the German Lutheran Congregation of Georgetown September 2, and of the Island Baptist Church, in South Washington, September 30.

An invitation to the Grand Lodge to be present and participate in the laying of the cornerstone of a monument at Sharpsburg, Md., September 17 of this year was accepted, but there is no record of attendance as a body.

The death, September 4, 1867, of Grand Master George C. Whiting was a serious blow to the Fraternity and marked the passing of one of the bright particular stars of the local Masonic world. The life, character, and work of this brilliant Mason, the impress of whose individuality remains with us to a marked degree, are fully set forth in other pages of this work, the reading of which should prove an inspiration to every Mason.

Two dedications of Masonic halls occurred in the year 1867, that of the enlarged Naval Lodge Building, corner Fifth Street and Virginia Avenue, S. E., October 17, and that of Hiram Lodge room, on the northeast corner of Nineteenth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W., December 5.

The peculiar condition which has always obtained in the District of Columbia whereby a large percentage of the population, while actually residing here, claimed and exercised

legal citizenship in other jurisdictions, early gave rise to numerous controversies relative to the extent to which this or other interested jurisdictions might lay claim to such material, and at this period, and even later, more or less sharp and, indeed, acrimonious passages between the authorities have resulted in consequence of this anomalous state of affairs. Prior to the middle of the century the lines of jurisdiction were not very jealously guarded, but with the advent of better facilities of intercommunication the matter began to assume some importance, and whereas before this time there was no constitutional provision for a term of residence as a condition precedent to application, the continued complaints of the Grand Lodges feeling themselves aggrieved by our alleged assumption of jurisdiction over material they considered their own finally led to the adoption of the following provision, which appears in the Constitution of 1864:

Sec. 22. Every Lodge is prohibited from initiating, passing, or raising any one not a citizen of this District, until due enquiry shall have been made of the Lodge nearest his place of residence, and a sufficient time allowed for an answer to be received under the *seal* of the Lodge addressed; *Provided*, That this is not designed to prohibit any person from being initiated, passed, or raised, even after such due enquiry is made and answer received, except the latter contains such tangible objections as would of themselves operate in the case of a permanent citizen of this jurisdiction.

This provision seems to have been adopted rather with a view to safeguard the Fraternity here by reason of the transient character of the population than as an acknowledgment of the right of the other jurisdictions in the premises, and, indeed, this position was forcibly taken by Grand Master Whiting during his incumbency; but this attitude was not shared by all the thinkers of the Craft of that day, and in 1870 the section was amended to read as follows:

Sec. 22. Every Lodge is prohibited from initiating any one not a resident of this District for a period of twelve months, without first having received the consent of the *Lodge* nearest his place of residence *under seal*.



The years that have since elapsed have brought about a full discussion between the jurisdictions of all the points involved, and the District is now in line with the rest of the family in this matter, as witness the provisions of the present Constitution:

Sec. 91. No petition for the degrees shall be received from any one who has not been a resident of the District of Columbia for the twelve months next preceding its presentation except as provided by the following section or by dispensation of the Grand Master; and if the petitioner has been rejected for the degrees in another jurisdiction his petition must be accompanied by a waiver of jurisdiction unless the period during which jurisdiction is claimed has expired.

Sec. 92. A resident of this jurisdiction may apply for the degrees to a Lodge of another jurisdiction when such Lodge is nearest his place of residence than is any Lodge in the District of Columbia, provided that the Grand Lodge of that jurisdiction grants the same privilege in like cases to Lodges of this jurisdiction. But nothing in this section shall be construed to abridge a requirement of twelve months' residence either in the District of Columbia or in the jurisdiction where the petitioner resides.

The meaning of the word "resident," however, is still, and perhaps always will be, a legitimate source of contention between the Grand Lodge of the District and certain other Grand Lodges the members of which refuse to recognize the unusual conditions here, which have a very vital bearing upon the interpretation of the word. Some instances of extensive correspondence between the Grand Masters of this and other jurisdictions on the subject justifies the belief that only with the dawn of the Millenium will come the great white light of understanding of how a man may vote and pay taxes in one place and yet be a resident (for Masonic purposes) of another bailiwick.

The public appearances of the Fraternity, aside from funerals, during the year 1868, consisted of the dedication of the Monument to Lincoln at the head of John Marshall Place, April 15, the laying of the cornerstone of the Metropolitan Presbyterian Church, Capitol Hill, April 14, and that of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Ninth Street and Mt. Vernon Place, August 4.



WILLIAM B. MAGRUDER,  
GRAND MASTER, 1845-1846.



At the installation communication, December 28, 1868, Grand Master French reported that he had granted a dispensation for the formation of a new lodge, to be known as "Anacostia Lodge," in the suburb known as "Uniontown," and the petition, signed by Bro. W. H. Farrish and six others, being presented at the same meeting, together with the recommendation of Naval Lodge, No. 4, a charter was ordered to issue to the new Lodge with the line number "21." The first returns show the above-named brother as Master, with Bros. George H. Martin and Charles Wheeler, Senior and Junior Wardens, respectively, and with a slightly enlarged roster. This Lodge, working in one of the outlying sections, has long since acquired a handsome home, and is one of the solid institutions not only of the local Craft but of the town of Anacostia (the present designation).

On the same evening of the granting of the above charter a petition to hold a lodge in Georgetown, D. C., to be known as "George Washington Lodge," was presented, signed by Bro. M. C. Causten and eighteen others. The Grand Master, however, deprecating the use of the name "George Washington" as likely to give rise to confusion, there being already two lodges in the jurisdiction with the word "Washington" prefixed to their names, the suggestion was made that the name "Analostan" be substituted, but this not being agreed to, the name as it now stands, "George C. Whiting Lodge, No. 22," was, on motion of Bro. D. P. Searle, P. M. of Harmony Lodge, adopted and a charter ordered to issue accordingly. The first return shows the names of Bros. S. Norris Thorne as Master; Samuel C. Palmer (Grand Master, 1878), as S. W., and H. M. De Hart, as J. W., and a substantial addition in membership. This Lodge has had a prosperous career, and amicably shares the home of and delves in the same field with Potomac Lodge, No. 5.

The institution of George C. Whiting occurred January 14, and that of Anacostia March 8, 1869, on the latter occasion R. W. Bro. A. G. Mackey, P. Grand Secretary of South Carolina, and a Masonic writer of world-wide repute, per-

forming the ceremony, on the invitation of Grand Master Donaldson.

At the semi-annual communication of May 4, 1869, a petition in regular form, signed by Bros. Joseph Daniels, J. W. Griffin, L. G. Stephens, and fifty-four other Master Masons, was received setting forth that they had been working under a dispensation since February 8, preceding, and praying that a charter be granted empowering them to open and hold a lodge to be known as "Pentalpha Lodge, No. 23," and naming the first three signers as Master and Senior and Junior Wardens, respectively, and, on motion, the prayer of the petitioners was granted, a charter issued, and on May 7, 1869, the ceremony of institution was performed. The career of this Lodge has been one of steady growth and prosperity.

The installation ceremony this year in the Grand Lodge was notable both by reason of being public and also by reason of being held in the lately completed Temple, Ninth and F Streets, N. W. The Grand Lodge on that occasion met in the parlors of the new building, and after the transaction of the regular business proceeded in procession to the main hall, where the installation was conducted by P. G. M. French, in the presence of a large assemblage of the friends of the Fraternity, the installation proper being preceded by an eloquent oration by M. W. Bro. French, and concluded by an equally eloquent one by Grand Master Donaldson.

On May 16, 1870, the foundation stone of the Steuben Monument, at Washington Schuetzen Park, was laid by the Grand Lodge.

While partly occupied before that date, the formal dedication of the new Temple took place May 20, 1870, on which occasion the late Brother Ben: Perley Poore, of Massachusetts, a journalist of international reputation, delivered an address, which is preserved in the printed proceedings of the Grand Lodge, and is of surpassing interest to the thoughtful Mason.

While the author has found it advisable, indeed necessary, if reasonable limits were to be set to this work, to touch

but lightly in these historical chapters upon the individuals who came and wrought and passed on through the long years of the century, leaving the details of their lives and characters and services to the appended biographical sketches, yet with all due deference to the abilities and accomplishments of a long line of brilliant executives before and since, there stands out against the background of the century one pre-ëminent figure, whose life was so closely interwoven with that of the Fraternity, whose unequalled mind led and moulded the policies of the local Craft for so many years, and to whose wise guidance Masonry in this city owes its position today, that we would be derelict indeed if we failed to note the fact that, on August 12, 1870, the Father of latter-day Masonry in the District of Columbia, Benjamin Brown French, passed to his reward. As Grand Master, Grand High Priest, Grand Master of Knights Templar of the United States, Lt.-Grand Commander of the Supreme Council A. and A. S. R., he served with signal ability; as a Masonic jurist he ranked with Pike, Mackey, Morris, and Macoy; as a scholar he was excelled by few; as a writer he was terse, vigorous, and to the point, and as a public speaker he was magnetic and powerful. Such a Colossus could not pass out from among men without leaving a void, perhaps never to be filled, and without being sincerely mourned, and today, after the lapse of forty years, his memory is as green as in that other generation when his illuminating presence was the guiding star of Masonry in the District of Columbia. Truly, his works do follow him.

By 1870 the question of the negro in Masonry was forcing itself upon the attention of the Fraternity throughout the country, and nowhere with more persistence than in the District of Columbia, the Mecca of the one-time slave immediately after the close of the Civil War. It is not within the province of the author to enter into the matter of the origin of the so-called lodges of African descent nor to rehearse any of the arguments for or against their legitimacy. Suffice it to say there are no recognized lodges of African descent in



the District of Columbia, and therefore no question of recognition has been nor can be raised under present conditions.

On the evening of April 10, 1871, one of the most memorable events in the history of the local Fraternity took place at the Masonic Temple, the occasion being the formal reception by the Grand Lodge of the Earl de Gray and Ripon, then M. W. Grand Master of England, who was sojourning in this city under commission from his Government in the matter of certain outstanding claims between Great Britain and the United States.

In addition to the special guest of the evening there were present W. Bro. Lord Tenderden, of England, and a large number of the Grand Masters of other jurisdictions. After an address of welcome by the Grand Master, Bro. Charles F. Stansbury, and an appropriate response by the Earl de Gray, the Grand Lodge was called from labor to refreshment, and in procession descended to the banquet hall which was beautifully decorated, the prevailing medium being a lavish use of the banners of the two countries.

Then ensued perhaps the most brilliant social function in the history of the local Order. The elaborate banquet provided having been duly disposed of, the cloth was removed, and, after the Grand Master had caused the hall to be purged of all except Master Masons, a "Table Lodge" was opened in due form and the glasses charged for the regular toasts. Lack of space forbids any quotations from the responses to these, but they are of record, and, together with the testimony of witnesses still with us, prove the occasion to have been truly "a feast of reason and a flow of soul."

These distinguished Englishmen frequently visited the subordinate lodges during their stay in this city, and, as stated in the Chapter on "Work," exemplified the First Degree in Pentalpha Lodge April 18, 1871, and the same evening the Third in National Lodge, each according to the English system. It is a matter of sincere regret to note that within a few years thereafter the Marquis of Ripon renounced Masonry and embraced the Romish faith, an act received





with mortification and dismay by the Craft on both sides of the water.

The great fire at Chicago in October, 1871, called forth a quick and generous contribution from the Fraternity here, the sum of \$3,334.90 being at once raised and conveyed to the scene of the disaster by Grand Master Stansbury in person, accompanied by the late Bro. N. B. Fugitt, an active worker in the cause.

Of the sum turned over \$765 was returned during the following year, and became a special Library fund, as has already been mentioned.

The presentation of an oil portrait of the late Past Grand Master French, March 8, 1871, and one of the late P. G. M. Whiting, May 8, 1872, both from the brush of Bro. Max Weyl, of St. John's Lodge, the noted artist, proved the starting point of a nearly complete gallery of portraits of P. Grand Masters now hung conspicuously in the Library and offices of the Temple.

August 25, 1872, witnessed the only cornerstone laying of the years 1871-2—that of the Independent German Protestant Church, Fifth Street between M and N Streets, N. W.

On October 30 of the same year the Grand Lodge dedicated another hall for Hiram Lodge, No. 10, this time the present site, on the southwest corner of Nineteenth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W. This lodge room was for a short time used jointly by The New Jerusalem, Hope, and Hiram Lodges, but shortly after the dedication Hope moved to the new Temple, and was soon followed by The New Jerusalem.

In the early part of 1873 Grand Master Stansbury granted a dispensation to certain Brethren in Brightwood, D. C., to hold a lodge to be known as "Stansbury," the designation being used in spite of his earnest protest. This live coterie of Masons, while yet under dispensation, began the erection of a hall, then and now known as "Brightwood Hall," the cornerstone of which was laid by the Grand Lodge June 30, 1873.

At the annual communication of the same year a petition

was presented to the Grand Lodge for a charter, signed by Bro. George W. Balloch, a distinguished General of the Civil War, Bros. Benjamin D. Carpenter, William W. Cowling, and six others, those named being nominated as Master and S. and J. Wardens, respectively. The charter was granted, with the line number 24, the new lodge instituted December 17, 1873, and the new Hall dedicated February 26, 1874. Occupying an isolated field to the north of the city, this Lodge at once justified its formation, and has steadily grown in numbers and influence.

In the year 1873 the Fraternity was especially active in relieving the distress incident to the scourge of yellow fever at Memphis and Shreveport, the sum of \$1,789.50 being subscribed for that purpose, and transmitted to the proper agencies, and in the latter part of the following year \$523.46 was contributed for the relief of the Mississippi flood sufferers. The sum of \$120 was in the same manner turned over to brethren in Kansas in distress through the failure of the crops in 1875.

As the log of a vessel sailing over smooth seas and under cloudless skies contains but little information, and only becomes voluminous when beset by storm and disaster, so the Masonic record during the period of calm now ensuing offers little of moment or interest to the reader. For eight years but one cornerstone laying was conducted by the Fraternity, that of All Souls' Church, Fourteenth and L Streets, N. W., June 27, 1877. It was a period of comparative lassitude, indifference, and stagnation in growth, and the Grand Lodge, as usual under such conditions, frequently suffered financially, and was more than once forced into borrowing money to meet necessary expenses, and finally found it necessary, in 1877, to levy a pro rata assessment upon the subordinate lodges to raise the sum of \$800.

Death claimed two Past Grand Masters in 1876, the first, Bro. Roger C. Weightman (1833), closing his long and honorable Masonic career of sixty-five years February 2 of that year, and the second, Bro. J. E. F. Holmead (1864), who



passed away October 19, 1876, the first in his eighty-ninth year and the latter in his forty-second year, the one full of years and honor, the other cut off in the very zenith of an unusually brilliant career. Both lives are treated in detail elsewhere in these pages.

In spite of the general apathy in Masonic circles, on July 10, 1876, a dispensation was granted Bros. H. H. Gerdes, J. C. Hesse, Hugo Eichholtz, and thirteen other Master Masons, authorizing them to open a lodge and confer the three degrees in the German language, and at the annual communication in November succeeding a charter was issued, and Arminius Lodge, No. 25, entered the family circle with the three brethren named as the first officers in the order given. The ceremony of the constitution and consecration took place November 27, 1876, and the new Lodge immediately entered upon a career of unbroken prosperity. The German language is still used exclusively in the lodge room, which, despite that fact, is one of the most popular in the jurisdiction.

The handsome sum of \$1,552.20 was raised for the yellow-fever sufferers of the South in 1878.

By the year 1880 financial conditions in the Grand Lodge were so much improved that, upon the recommendation of a committee headed by the late M. W. Bro. Noble D. Larner, a start was made toward having the old records printed in volumes of uniform size to those of later years, and this work, tho halted by lack of funds subsequently, was finally completed, and while the long neglect had resulted in the loss of some of the material, yet reasonably satisfactory reports for the greater part of the period of the existence of the Grand Lodge are thus permanently preserved, and this result is largely due to the indefatigable labors of the late Bro. William R. Singleton, to whose life-long interest this jurisdiction owes so much.

August 1, 1881, the cornerstone of the Tabernacle, Ninth, near B Street, S. W., was laid according to the ancient usage,



and November 9 of the same year the Anacostia Hall was formally dedicated.

The circumstances of the assassination, suffering, and death of the late Bro. James A. Garfield, then President of the United States, during this year were subjects of the deepest concern to the Fraternity here, as he was a charter member of Pentalpha Lodge and was on its rolls at the time of his death, and was also on the rolls of Columbia Chapter, R. A. M., in which chapter he had received the cryptic as well as the caputular Degrees. He was in addition a member of Columbia Commandery, K. T., and had received the fourteenth degree in Mithras Lodge of Perfection, A. and A. S. R., of this city. Probably the most active Mason locally that has ever filled the Presidential chair, he had to an unusual degree endeared himself to the Craft, and by his example doubtless exercised a large influence in awakening a new enthusiasm which was shortly to bear fruit.

In connection with the death of Bro. Garfield the following self-explanatory paper was received through the State Department, and subsequently acknowledged in proper form by our own Grand Lodge:

FREEMASON'S HALL, LONDON,

12th December, 1881.

*To His Excellency, the Honourable J. Russell Lowell, Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States of America at the Court of St. James.*

Sir:

I have the honor to inform your Excellency that at a general meeting of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of England, held here on the 7th instant, it was proposed by His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, K. G. Grand Master of the Order, seconded by the Right Honourable Lord Tenderden, K. C. B., and carried unanimously: That the Grand Lodge of England should place on record their deep regret at the calamity which has recently befallen their brethren in the United States of America by the untimely death from the hands of an assassin of their late illustrious and lamented Brother, General James Abram Garfield, the President of that Republic, and that the Grand Lodge are desirous of offering the tribute of their condolence with and deep sympathy for the widow and family of their distinguished Brother in the heavy bereavement with which it has pleased the Almighty to visit them.

I am, therefore, commanded by His Royal Highness, The Grand

Master, to notify the same for Your Excellency's attention, and to request that Your Excellency will be so good as to cause the same to be transmitted to the proper quarters.

The Prince of Wales desires to take this opportunity of expressing personally, as Grand Master, his own fraternal regrets on the occasion and his sorrow that a life so valuable to his country, to his family, and to his Brethren, should have been thus wantonly sacrificed.

I have the honour to remain,

Your Excellency's Most obedient Servant,

SHADWELL H. CLERKE, *Colonel*,

*Grand Secretary United Grand Lodge of England.*

In the early days of 1882 the Fraternity, not only of this jurisdiction but of the country at large, was called upon to mourn the death of P. G. Master Charles Frederick Stansbury, which occurred January 31 of that year. As Grand Master in 1862 and again from 1871 to 1874, inclusive, his influence upon the Order, by reason of his valuable contributions to Masonic literature and jurisprudence, his cultivated intellect, his devotion to duty, and his noble efforts for the good of the Fraternity was invaluable and far reaching, while his cultured, refined, conscientious, and unselfish character endeared him to every one with whom he came in contact. With his demise a great leader passed from the field of action.

January 10, 1883, was the date of the adoption of the one-ballot system by the Grand Lodge which is the law today and which has been earnestly advocated for years by many influential brethren.

The custom established by Grand Master Donaldson of having a lecture delivered at each visitation and the lecturer selected by the Grand Master was this year, by the example of then incumbent of the office, M. W. Bro. E. H. Chamberlain, changed by placing the selection of speakers in the hands of the several lodges, and this custom, with a still wider latitude in the character of the entertainment offered, obtains to this day.

In 1884 the Grand Lodge, for the first time in many years finding itself in good financial condition, and recognizing the

great labor entailed upon the Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence, appropriated \$150 for the past services of that brother (the late Wm. R. Singleton), and adopted a standing resolution to pay annually \$50 for this work.

May 23, 1884, the cornerstone of the Washington Light Infantry Armory and Opera House was laid with considerable ceremony, the escort of Knights Templar including all the local Commanderies and Richmond Commandery, No. 1, of Richmond, Va.

The numerical strength of the Fraternity in the District this year reached 3,005, the decade of stagnation preceding having shown practically no gain, but the growth from this time to the present, with the exception of an occasional temporary lapse, has been steady, and in the later years remarkable.

In March, 1884, the Grand Lodge was the recipient of a photographic reproduction from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania of the famous "Liber B," being a copy of the original book of St. John's Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, of Philadelphia, Pa., dated June 24, A. D. 1731, as far as known the earliest authentic Masonic record in this country. It is on file in the Grand Lodge Library, and is accessible to the interested student.

## CHAPTER XI.

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### THE NEW ERA.

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DEDICATION OF WASHINGTON MONUMENT—CHARTERS TO  
LODGES NOS. 26, 27, 28, 29, AND 30—DEATHS OF P. G.  
MASTER NOBLE D. LARNER AND GRAND SECRETARY  
WILLIAM R. SINGLETON—MAKING A MASON  
“ON SIGHT”—THE ALBERT PIKE STATUE.

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*“The weight of the universe is pressed down on the shoulders of each moral agent to hold him to his task. The only path of escape known in all the worlds of God is performance; you must do your work before you shall be released.”—EMERSON.*

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BY FAR the most important event of the year 1885, or, indeed, of many years, in local Masonry was the participation of the Fraternity in the dedication of the Washington Monument. This great work, which had halted early in its career, owes its final completion largely to the efforts of the Masonic brethren of this and other jurisdictions, who, through the long period of inaction, persistently worked toward that end.

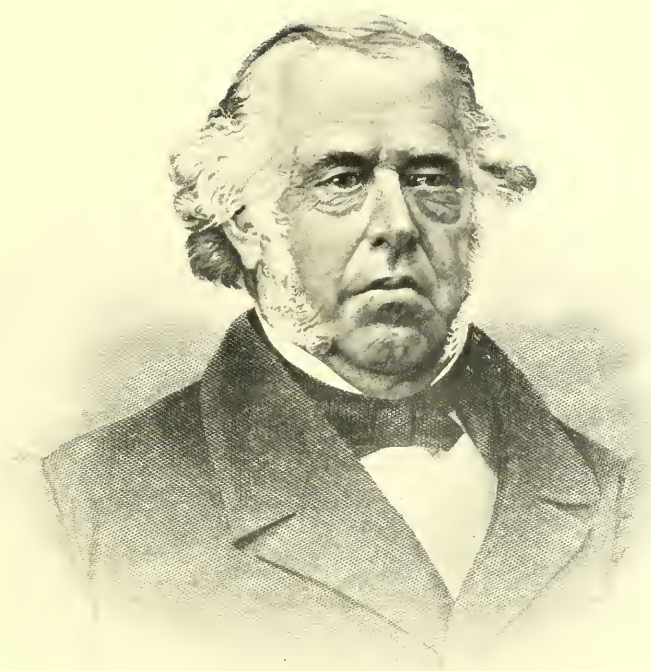
The preparations for the event gave rise to a situation which led to the reiteration by the then Grand Master, M. W. Bro. M. M. Parker, of the principle adhered to for some years and previously mentioned, that the Fraternity might not take part in any public function in which no Masonic work was required of it. The story, in brief, follows: The first invitation extended by the Joint Congressional Commission on Dedication assigned to the Masons a prominent and distinctive part in

the ceremony and was satisfactory. Later, however, the Commission decided to curtail the ceremony to one oration, but offered to give the Fraternity "a position of honor in the line." Grand Master Parker replied that "the practice of Masonry was not to swell processions," and declined to invite the Grand Lodge, and, altho importuned by prominent officials, continued to reaffirm that "under no circumstances could the Grand Lodge be induced to depart from its ancient customs." At a later date the Joint Commission invited the Grand Master to meet with it, when the matter was thoroughly gone over, with the result that an invitation was received and accepted by the Grand Lodge to take part in the ceremonies and active steps were at once taken to make the occasion a notable one. Circular letters were sent to all the Grand Lodges of the United States and those foreign grand bodies with which we were in fraternal correspondence and suitable arrangements made for Knight Templar escort and entertainment.

On the date set, February 21, 1885, the Grand Lodge met in special session in the main hall of the Temple, with an unusual number of brethren in attendance, including representatives from the Grand Lodges of Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware, North Carolina, Virginia, New Hampshire, California, Tennessee, Maryland, West Virginia, and Illinois.

Escorted by the Knights Templar and Royal Arch Masons of the District, lodges from Delaware, Virginia, and New York, and delegations in force from each of the lodges of this jurisdiction, the Grand Lodge proceeded to the Monument in orderly Masonic formation, where, after an invocation by Rev. Mr. Suter and an address by the late W. W. Corcoran, the full Masonic ceremony of dedication was performed according to usage.

Following this ceremony Grand Master Parker delivered a striking eulogy upon the life and character of the illustrious Washington, in the course of which he took occasion to refer to and display the following interesting relics: The gavel used by Washington at the laying of the cornerstone of the



Faithfully & Fraternally  
P. J. French  
P. G. M.

GRAND MASTER, 1847-1853, 1868; GRAND HIGH PRIEST, 1869-1870





Capitol; the Bible, belonging to Fredericksburg Lodge, No. 4, of Virginia, upon which he took his first Masonic vows; the Bible, belonging to St. John's Lodge, No. 1, of New York, upon which he took the oath of office as the first President of the United States; the Great Light, belonging to Alexandria-Washington Lodge, No. 22, of Alexandria, Va., upon which he, as Master of that lodge, received the vows of initiates; the apron worn by him, which was wrought by Madame LaFayette; a lock of his hair, presented by Mrs. Washington to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and encased in a golden urn, the gift of the late Bro. Paul Revere, and a candle, one of the Lesser Lights used at the funeral exercises at Mt. Vernon in 1799.

Immediately after the ceremonies the visiting brethren who desired to leave the city were escorted to Marini's Hall, in E Street, N. W., where ample refreshments were served.

At 8 o'clock the same evening, the distinguished visitors were the guests of the Grand Lodge at a reception in the parlors of the Riggs House, and later at an elaborate banquet. The responses to the various toasts proposed, which were unusually numerous, have been preserved and make interesting reading.

In May, 1887, the Grand Lodge took a prominent part in the Centennial Anniversary celebration of our mother, the Grand Lodge of Maryland. On the 12th of that month, in accordance with previous invitation and arrangement, the twenty-one lodges of the District assembled at the Temple, at 8 A. M., to the number of 1,370, clad in dark clothes, silk hats, and new lamb-skin aprons. It may safely be asserted in this connection that never before nor since has the Fraternity presented so uniform and dignified a public appearance. A procession being formed, this large company proceeded to the B. and O. station, where a special train of four sections conveyed them to the Monumental City, and upon their arrival there they were assigned to a prominent place in the procession and other ceremonies of the day. A bronze souvenir of the occasion was presented to each visiting brother, and every

effort put forth by the Masons of Baltimore to fittingly entertain their guests, their hospitality culminating in a great banquet in the evening at which the District was well represented. It is proper to note that P. G. M. Parker and W. Bro. Sherwood were honored on the occasion by being placed on the staff of the Marshal-in-Chief of the Grand Lodge of Maryland.

On June 7, 1888, the cornerstone of the Scottish Rite Cathedral, 1007 G Street, N. W., was laid by the Grand Lodge, and the service of dedication of the new part of the Sanctuary performed October 9 of the same year.

The only other public appearance of 1888 was on the occasion of the laying of the cornerstone of the Fifth Baptist Church, Four-and-a-Half, near N Street, S. W.

A notable improvement, which can well be appreciated by the majority of local Masons, was the installation during this year in the Temple, Ninth and F Streets, of what was termed "a very fine elevator," and the characterization was apparently not intended to be facetious.

October 14, 1889, was the date of the laying of the cornerstone of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, C and Twelfth Streets, S. W., the only public function of the year.

At the communication of November 13, 1889, the question of the proposed erection of a "Washington Masonic Memorial Temple" at Fredericksburg, Va., was laid before the Grand Lodge, and the sum of \$500 was appropriated as a contribution toward the project, to be paid in three annual installments. This appropriation was predicated upon the subscription of the entire amount required, \$100,000, and, not being available until that had been assured, still remains in the treasury. It is proper to state, however, that within the last few years new life has been injected into the project, and possible success may ultimately crown the effort, the year 1908 showing an accumulated fund of over \$9,000, which has been largely increased since that time through systematic effort.

Upon a petition bearing thirty-seven names, Grand Master James A. Sample, on January 13, 1890, granted a dispensation

to open a lodge to be known as "Osiris," and at the ensuing communication of the Grand Lodge, May 14, a charter was issued to Osiris Lodge, No. 26. The first officers named were Bros. Wm. Oscar Roome, W. M.; Landon Cabell Williamson, S. W., and Alonzo Joel Marsh, J. W. The birth of this lodge was attended with some feeling. Most of the charter members coming from Centennial Lodge, the latter, for what seemed good reasons, formally protested against the issuance of a charter, but at the resumed communication May 21 withdrew the protest, and was most active in extending felicitations to the new lodge on the occasion of its constitution the same evening, and it is needless to add that the most amicable relations have ever since existed between the two lodges.

The cornerstone of the new building of Anacostia Lodge, No. 21, was laid July 2, 1890, and the dedication of the hall followed, November 4, of the same year.

At the semi-annual communication of the Grand Lodge, May 13, 1891, Grand Master Thos. F. Gibbs reported having granted a dispensation, March 12, preceding, to Bro. James Eldridge Burns and thirty-one others to form a lodge in the northeastern section, and a formal petition, signed by thirty-four brethren, being received the same evening, a charter was granted to open and hold a lodge to be known as "Myron M. Parker Lodge, No. 27," the above-named brother being nominated to be the first Master, and Bros. A. K. Lind and V. A. Hubbard, S. W. and J. W., respectively. The lodge was regularly consecrated and constituted May 21, 1891, in a building on the southwest corner of Third and H Streets, N. E., and occupying, as it does, an exclusive and somewhat isolated field, has enjoyed an unusual degree of prosperity, and well justified its formation.

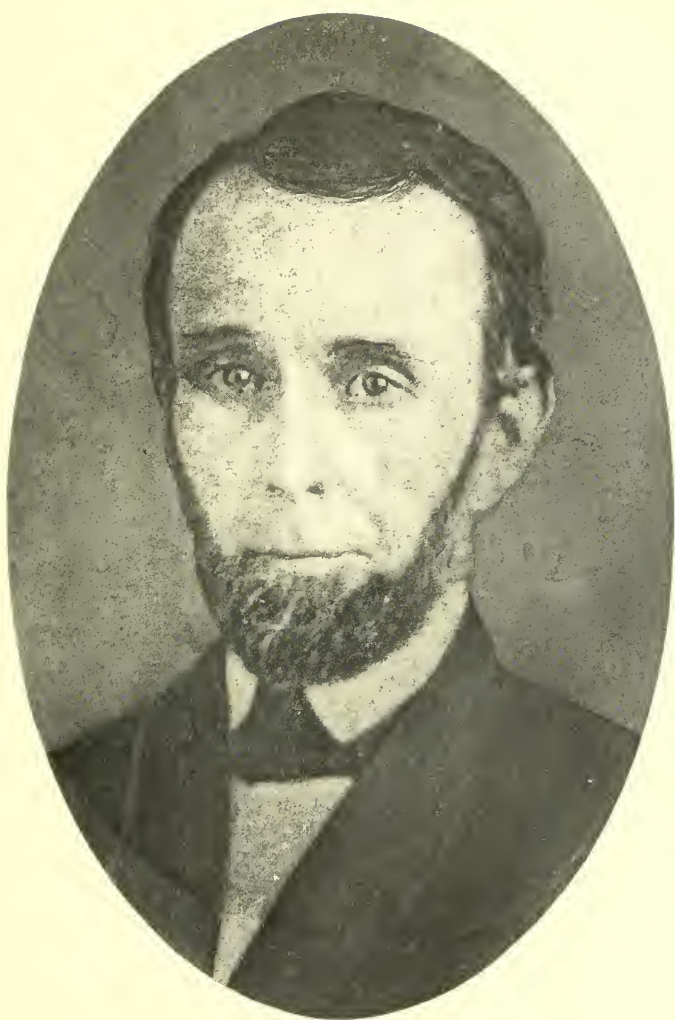
The second meeting place of the Lodge, at the corner of I and Eighth Streets, N. E., was dedicated by the Grand Lodge March 22, 1893, and the third, at the corner of H and Twelfth Streets, N. E., in 1897.

As a matter of interest, while on the subject of this lodge, it may be stated that at the installation communication of the

same year Bro. J. E. Burns, having served as the Master of the Lodge from the date of the charter to the close of the Masonic year, was, by resolution of the Grand Lodge, declared a Past Master of Myron M. Parker Lodge and a member of the Grand Lodge, the only instance of the kind, so far as the author has been able to discover, in this jurisdiction.

The custom, now well established, of taking part in no public function without the performance of Masonic work, was again given prominence in 1893 by the declination of the Grand Lodge to take part in the ceremonies incident to the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the Capitol Building, which occurred September 18 of that year. The original invitation to the Grand Lodge from the committee in charge offered space at the Capitol to the Fraternity for the performance of such ceremonies as might be appropriate, and in addition assigned to it the right of line in the parade, and was laid before the Grand Lodge at a special communication held July 26, 1893. A resolution to accept the invitation gave rise to considerable debate, and the whole matter was referred to a committee, to report at a special communication to be called by the Grand Master. In pursuance of this decision a meeting was called August 11, at which the report of the committee was received, and the fact developed that the proposed celebration had not as yet been sanctioned by Congress. In view of this condition of the affair and the reasonable doubt as to the character of the work which might properly be done on the occasion, the Grand Lodge declined to participate, but offered to take the matter under respectful consideration should conditions change. And there the incident closed.

September 11 and 12, 1893, were marked by a series of unusually elaborate and successful events commemorative of the one hundredth birthday of Federal Lodge, No. 1, including, on the first evening, a brilliant reception at the old Temple, attended by some 500 members, ladies, and invited guests, at which a musical and literary program of merit was presented, refreshments served, and dancing indulged in, and on the



CHARLES S. FRAILEY,  
GRAND MASTER, 1855-1856; GRAND SECRETARY, 1848-1854.





second evening, a strictly Masonic banquet at the Ebbitt House.

September 22, 1893, Grand Master L. Cabell Williamson, upon proper petition granted a dispensation to sundry brethren to organize a lodge to be held at Brookland, D. C., Myron M. Parker Lodge vouching for the Masonic ability and moral character of the petitioners, and at the annual communication, November 8, a petition signed by Bros. Thomas G. Carmick, George F. Erdman, William H. Stalee, and nine others, being regularly presented, a charter was granted to "King David Lodge, No. 28," the three brethren above mentioned becoming the first three officers in the order named. On the 5th of the following month the lodge was duly instituted, at once became the center of Masonic activity in that thriving suburb, and entered upon a career of prosperity and growth that has given it an enviable place in the local Masonic family.

As early as September 20, 1893, a movement to fittingly observe the centennial of the death of Washington, December 14, 1899, was started by the Grand Lodge of Colorado, which issued a circular on the subject and requested the coöperation of all the Grand Lodges. Our own Grand Lodge at once responded by appointing a member of the general committee. It is a matter of regret that the ambitious design of uniting all the Grand Lodges in the effort was not successful, tho the celebration, very properly under the direction of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, was a most creditable one, and is treated of in its chronological place.

July 24, 1894, occurred one of the most imposing Masonic public appearances of the period, the occasion being the laying of the cornerstone of the Naval Lodge Building, Fourth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, S. E. The ceremonies were preceded by a procession from the Temple, Ninth and F Streets, N. W., to the above site, of all the Commanderies of Knights Templar of the city, the Marine Band, large representations from each of the sister lodges, and the Grand Lodge, the latter, it may be remarked parenthetically, on foot. After the usual ceremonies, which were accompanied by appropriate

music by the band and vocal selections by a choir of male voices, the oration of the occasion was delivered by P. G. M. L. C. Williamson.

At the semi-annual communication held May 8, 1895, a petition in proper form was received from twenty-five brethren praying for a charter to open and hold a lodge in Takoma Park, D. C., to be known as Takoma Lodge, No. 29, and nominating Bro. Wilmer G. Platt to be the first Master; Bro. Francis J. Woodman, the first Senior Warden, and Bro. Theodore F. Willis, the first Junior Warden. The charter was granted, permission given the new lodge to continue meeting in the Odd Fellows' lodge room at the Park, and later in the month the ceremony of constitution was conducted by the Grand Lodge. The history of this lodge, occupying, like King David Lodge, an exclusive tho somewhat limited field, has been one of unbroken prosperity, and its establishment proven to have been a wise move.

The newly-completed and very handsome edifice erected by Naval Lodge, No. 4, was dedicated June 6, 1895, and this progressive lodge entered upon the occupancy of one of the largest and most beautiful lodge rooms perhaps in this country.

The only cornerstone laying of the year 1895 was that of the Fifteenth Street M. E. Church, corner Fifteenth and R Streets, N. W., which occurred October 8, while the following year boasted of two—that of Trinity M. E. Church, Fifth and C Streets, S. E., on September 9, and that of the American University, at Wesley Heights, D. C., October 21, 1896, which number was still further increased in 1897, that of the North Carolina M. P. Church occurring February 25; that of the Hebrew Temple, Eighth Street, N. W., September 16, and that of the Christian Church, Ninth and D Streets, N. E., September 18, 1897. But two more ceremonies of this character fell within the century: The cornerstone laying of the Douglas Memorial Church, Eleventh and H Streets, N. E., October 18, 1898, and that of the Gay Street Baptist Church, corner Thirty-first and N Streets, N. W., July 1, 1899.

During the spring of 1898 the first of a series of mammoth

fairs to aid in the erection of a new Temple, a project now taking definite and promising shape, was held with marked financial success, and together with all matters relating to the movement is treated in detail in a special chapter.

The following data, taken from the original papers and minutes of B. B. French Lodge, No. 15, and certified to by the Secretary, W. Bro. E. St. Clair Thompson, sufficiently covers an interesting and unusual incident, the making of Admiral Schley:

The petition for the degrees of Masonry of Winfield Scott Schley was regularly received by Benjamin B. French Lodge, No. 15, F. A. A. M., at its stated communication of October 16, 1899, and was referred to Brothers D. C. Morrison, Harry C. Whiting, W. H. Doe, as a committee of investigation.

Admiral Schley was then under orders to proceed with the South Atlantic Squadron to the waters of South America.

The Master of the Lodge, Brother Alexander Grant, then requested of the Grand Master, Brother J. Henry Small, Jr., authority to ballot and confer the degrees on Admiral Schley at a special communication of the Lodge.

Under date of October 19, 1899, Most Worshipful Brother Small granted the request as follows (citing the Grand Lodge Constitution as his authority for so doing):

"I hereby request and authorize you to call a special communication of your Lodge for the purpose of conferring upon Rear Admiral Winfield S. Schley, for me as Grand Master of Masons of the District of Columbia, the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason, at such times as his convenience may permit \* \* \*.

"I will be present in your Lodge at the time the degrees are conferred."

On October 21, 1899, the Lodge was called in special communication for the purpose of balloting on the petition and conferring the degrees. A unanimously favorable report of the committee was presented, at which time the Grand Master directed "that the taking of the ballot be dispensed with."

The Entered Apprentice Degree was conferred by E. St. Clair Thompson, Senior Warden of the Lodge;

The Fellow Craft degree was conferred by James T. Gibbs, Junior Warden of the Lodge;

The Master Mason degree was conferred by Alexander Grant, Master of the Lodge.

On October 26, 1899, the Grand Master filed the following certificate with the Lodge:

"I hereby certify that on the evening of October 21, 1899, by the high power in me vested, and under the old regulations of Freemasonry of 1721, and the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, Article VI, Section 2, I did confer upon Brother Winfield Scott Schley the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason in Benjamin B. French Lodge, No. 15, and any Lodge within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia is hereby authorized to receive this certificate in lieu of the usual dimit.

"J. H. SMALL, JR.,

*"Grand Master.*

"Attest:

"WM. R. SINGLETON,

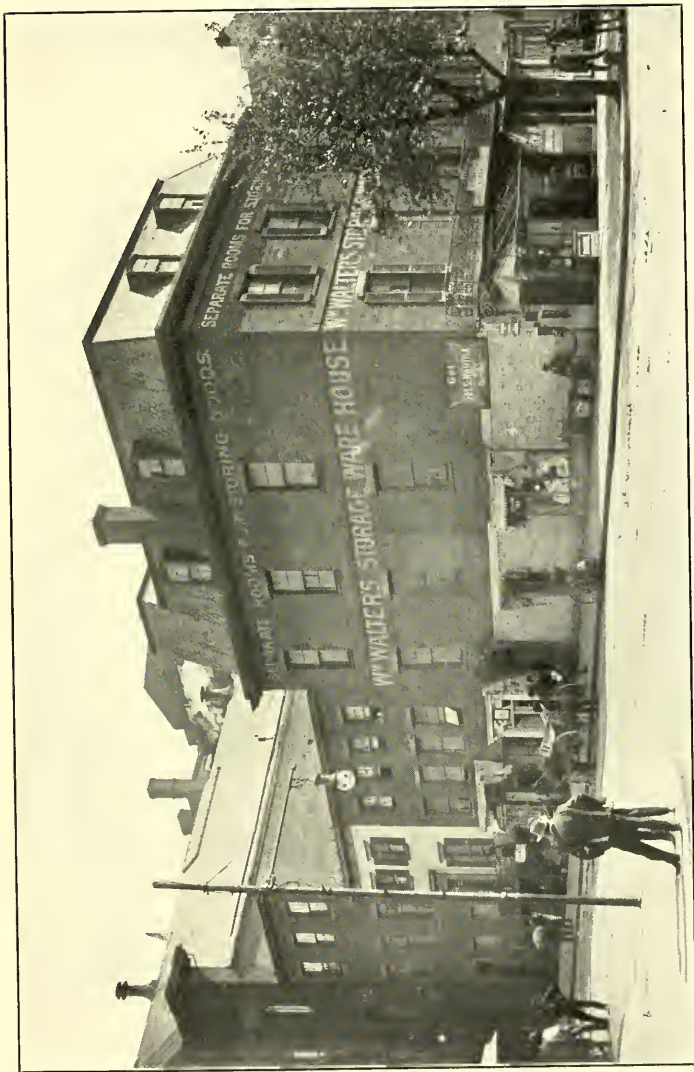
[SEAL.]

*"Grand Secretary."*

On November 6, 1899, Brother Schley filed a petition for affiliation with the Lodge, which was balloted on the same evening, and the petitioner was declared duly elected to membership in the lodge.

December 14, 1899, occurred the observance of the centennial of the death of Washington, to which allusion has previously been made. The affair was under the direction of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, and the members of the Fraternity from this jurisdiction were present as guests. On the morning of that day a procession of several thousand Master Masons was formed on F Street, between Ninth and Fourteenth Streets, N. W., and proceeded to the Seventh Street wharf, where steamers were taken to Mt. Vernon. The ceremonies there were as nearly as possible identical with those at the funeral one hundred years before, and were of the most impressive character. The address of the occasion was made by the late Bro. William McKinley, then President of the United States. The same evening a reception and buffet luncheon was given by the Grand Lodge of Virginia at Willard's Hotel, this city, to Master Masons and their families, which was largely attended. While only participating as guests the local Fraternity took a lively interest in the affair, and the lambskin or white leather apron deposited by the Grand Master of this jurisdiction upon the sarcophagus was subsequently presented, handsomely framed, to this Grand Lodge, by Grand Master Duke, of Virginia, on behalf of the Grand Lodge of that State, the presentation being a most appreciative and eloquent tribute to the brethren of the District, and the speech of acceptance by Grand Master Wm. G.





OLD MEDICAL COLLEGE BUILDING, TENTH AND E STREETS, N. W.

Used as a Masonic Hall by the Fraternity from 1846 to 1855. Entrance on Tenth Street Front. Old Ford's Theater on extreme left.





Henderson, an equally felicitous acknowledgment of the honor conferred, characterizing the gift as "an indissoluble bond of brotherly love between the Masons of Virginia and the Masons of the District of Columbia."

On February 23, 1901, Bro. William Reynolds Singleton, Masonic writer, jurist, and scholar, and for many years Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, passed away at an advanced age. While an extended sketch of his life and works is found in other pages of this work, it is deemed a fitting tribute to his unusual worth to chronicle his death as an event by which this jurisdiction suffered a loss greater, perhaps, than that involved in the passing of any other one man in this jurisdiction, P. G. Master French alone excepted. A handsome monument, the tribute of his brethren in this jurisdiction, marks his last resting place in Oak Hill Cemetery, and in his report to the Grand Lodge the Chairman of the Special Committee, P. G. Master Standiford, thus describes it:

The monument consists of a pedestal of dark polished granite resting upon a granite base and surmounted by a bronze bust of our deceased brother, the base and pedestal being adorned with appropriate symbols and allegorical figures in bronze, and the sides bearing inscriptions in raised bronze letters, setting forth the date and place of birth and of death of Bro. Singleton, the office which he held in the Grand Lodge, and that the monument is erected by his brethren. The monument stands about nine feet in height, and was designed and executed by the celebrated sculptor, U. S. J. Dunbar, of this city. It is most artistic in both conception and execution, and in keeping with the purity of life and conduct and the many noble traits of character of him who with high scholarly attainments served this Grand Lodge so faithfully and ably for so many years, and is in every way a fitting tribute to his memory by his brethren of the Craft, who so deeply mourn his loss.

The monument was formally dedicated July 25, 1903, under unusually impressive conditions.

At the semi-annual communication of May 8, 1901, a petition was received from Bros. Frank H. Thomas, Isaac E. Shoemaker, Samuel O. Wendel and thirty-two others, praying for a charter to open and hold a lodge at Tenley, D. C., to

be known as William R. Singleton Lodge, No. 30, and nominating the brethren named above as the first three officers in the order given, and the charter being at once granted, the Grand Lodge, on the 28th of the same month, repaired to the meeting place, dedicated the hall, constituted the lodge, and installed the officers. The field thus occupied, an isolated suburb, has proven a fertile one, and the progressive character of the membership has so improved the opportunities that No. 30 is already in the full tide of vigorous youth, and, with the rapid growth of the population in that direction, has before it an unusually promising future.

The cornerstone of their present building in Tenleytown, D. C., was laid November 19, 1908, and its dedication occurred.

September 26, 1901, the cornerstone of the Christian and Eleanora Ruppert Home, a benevolent institution, founded on a bequest of the late Bro. Christian Ruppert, and located near Anacostia, D. C., was laid in ancient form.

On the 23d of the following month the Grand Lodge, under the escort of Orient Commandery, No. 5, K. T., and a large number of Masons, proceeded in procession from Ninth and F Streets to the intersection of D Street and Indiana Avenue, N. W., and joined with the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for the Southern Jurisdiction in dedicating the handsome bronze statue of the late Bro. Albert Pike, erected at that point by the latter body. The statue was unveiled by Bro. Henry L. Palmer, Grand Commander, and Bro. Josiah H. Drummond, P. G. C., of the Supreme Council of the Northern Jurisdiction; Bro. James D. Richardson, Grand Commander of the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction, and Bro. Raphael de Zayas Enriquez, of the Supreme Council of Mexico. After the dedicatory exercises by the Grand Lodge the monument was formally delivered to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia by the late Bro. Frederick Webber, Secretary-General, on behalf of the Supreme Council, and received on behalf of the

District by Hon. H. B. F. Macfarland, Commissioner, in appropriate addresses.

During the year now closing the aggregate membership of the several blue lodges had passed the 6,000 mark and numbered 6,257, showing the very substantial increase of 366 over the report of 1900.

The Masonic event of 1902 was the second great fair for the benefit of the new Temple fund, which was held in April of that year, and which is more fully enlarged upon in another chapter.

The celebration of the 150th anniversary of the initiation of W. Bro. George Washington, at Philadelphia, November 5, 1902, probably one of the most notable gatherings ever held within tiled walls, was attended by the Deputy Grand Master, the late Bro. George H. Walker, P. G. Master George W. Baird, and a delegation from Potomac Lodge, No. 5, of this city, bearing the famous Washington gavel, all of whom were the recipients of the most courteous treatment during their sojourn in our neighboring city.

The year 1902 marked the installation of the card-index system in the office of the Grand Secretary. The labor of bringing the system up to date was a strenuous task, but is now practically completed, and with the current additions forms an invaluable record, which is safe-guarded by being permanently placed in a fireproof vault in the new Temple. It is proper to state that a similar index has been prepared of the Royal Arch Masons of the District, and is in the custody of the Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of that body.

February 21, 1903, occurred a most memorable public ceremony, that attendant upon the laying of the cornerstone of the War College in the grounds of the Washington Barracks. The Grand Lodge, escorted by Washington Commandery, No. 1, K. T., and headed by the Second Cavalry Band, proceeded to the site and occupied the place reserved for them in the midst of a vast concourse, including the President of the United States, Bro. Theodore Roosevelt, the Cabinet, U. S. Senators and Representatives, members of the Diplo-

matic Corps, the District Commissioners, and other invited guests, among whom were a large number of ladies. After addresses by the President, Hon. Elihu Root, Secretary of War, and Gen. S. B. M. Young, President of the War College, and an invocation by the Acting Grand Chaplain, Rev. Bro. Daniel W. Skellenger, the Grand Lodge took charge, and conducted the formal ceremony according to ancient usage, upon the conclusion of which an appropriate address was delivered by the then Grand Master, M. W. Bro. George H. Walker.

The death of P. G. Master Noble Danforth Larnier, which occurred March 19, 1903, removed from Masonic circles a brilliant and indefatigable worker, and one who, as Grand Master in 1881 and 1882, and as Grand High Priest of this jurisdiction and G. G. High Priest of the United States, left the impress of his intellect and indomitable energy not only upon the District of Columbia, where he was for years a potential force in business, social, and religious life, but upon the Fraternity generally, his reputation being national. The greatest monument to his busy life was the old Temple, Ninth and F Streets, N. W., for to him more than to any other one individual must be given the credit of the inception and ultimately successful termination of that enterprise.

On June 27, 1903, the cornerstone of the handsome new Foundry Church, Sixteenth and Madison Streets, N. W., was laid by the Grand Lodge, the escort on this occasion being Columbia Commandery, No. 2, K. T.

A rather interesting point during the year grew out of the request of Gen. Anson Mills, U. S. A. (Retired), that the Grand Lodge lay the cornerstone of the Navy Department Annex, Seventeenth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W. General Mills, in anticipation of favorable consideration of his request, had invited a large number of public officials and made other arrangements for the occasion, but upon the fact being brought to the attention of Grand Master Walker that the building was owned by a private individual, and the further fact that the stone to be laid was not in reality a cornerstone, but simply the plinth in one of the columns of

the portico, he courteously declined to permit the Grand Lodge to participate, on the ground that the constitution of that body only permitted the laying of cornerstones of public buildings, and while, in view of the use to which the building was to be put, this point might be waived, the further fact of its being in no sense a cornerstone, the building proper having already been erected, precluded the use of a ritual filled with references to the "future edifice," and predicated upon a presumption that the stone was a part of the actual foundation.

By the end of 1903 another thousand mark had been passed, and the lodge membership footed up 7,064.

Aside from the occasions when the last rites were held over the remains of deceased brethren, among whom, in the year 1904, were Rev. Bro. Claudius B. Smith, for twenty-three years Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of the District, and P. G. Master Malcolm Seaton, the Grand Lodge appeared in public during that year three times, officiating at as many cornerstone, layings—that of Memorial Continental Hall Seventeenth and D Streets, N. W., April 19; Mt. Pleasant M. E. Church, Columbia Road, N. W., July 30, and the Second Presbyterian Church South, Twenty-second Street, between P Street and Massachusetts Avenue, N. W., November 26. The addresses of Grand Master James A. Wetmore on each of these occasions were of unusual interest and appropriateness and are well worthy of perusal.



## CHAPTER XII.

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### THE LATTER DAYS.

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CENTENNIAL OF NAVAL LODGE—IMPORTANT PUBLIC FUNCTIONS—THE WASHINGTON GAVEL—DEATHS OF M. W. BROTHERS GEORGE H. WALKER, R. B. DONALDSON, JOSE MARIA YZNAGA, DAVID G. DIXON, AND E. G. DAVIS.

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*"The future will but turn  
The old sands in the failing glass of Time."*  
—STODDARD.

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THE YEAR 1905 witnessed the introduction of what, to this jurisdiction, had previously been unknown—a daylight lodge; and was the logical outgrowth of the constantly increasing army of night workers peculiar to a great city, whose duties preclude their participation in the ordinary fraternal and social pleasures of the era.

On April 7 of that year Grand Master Lurtin R. Ginn, upon proper petition, granted a dispensation to a number of brethren to organize such a lodge. On May 10, following, at the second communication of the Grand Lodge, a petition in due form for a charter was received from these brethren, twenty-six in all, and a charter was ordered to issue to them to open and hold a lodge to be known as King Solomon's Lodge, No. 31, the first three officers to be Bros. William H. Singleton, Jose L. Atkins, and Philander C. Johnson, in the order named. The new lodge was duly constituted May 25, of the same year, and has since amply proven that its establishment had indeed filled a long-felt want. It may be again

remarked in passing, that the name "King Solomon's Lodge" had been selected for a lodge which struggled for existence in 1864, but which "died a-borning." But this latter pre-emptor of the title has well passed the formative period and, endowed with exceptional vitality, gives promise of a long and useful career.

One of the most elaborate and successful celebrations ever held by a subordinate lodge in this jurisdiction occurred in the week commencing May 14, 1905, when for a period of four days, beginning by attendance Sunday evening upon special divine service, Naval Lodge, No. 4, celebrated their centennial anniversary, in a series of brilliant meetings, receptions, and banquets, the most notable being that of May 15, 1905, when the Grand Lodge and other distinguished Masons were the honored guests. The history of this Lodge, including an account of the centennial celebration, has been preserved in a handsome volume, which was issued as a feature of the occasion.

Three cornerstone-layings occurred during the year 1905—that of the Masonic and Eastern Star Home, May 17; of the Eckington Presbyterian Church, North Capitol and Q Streets, May 22, and of the Whitney Avenue Memorial Church, May 26.

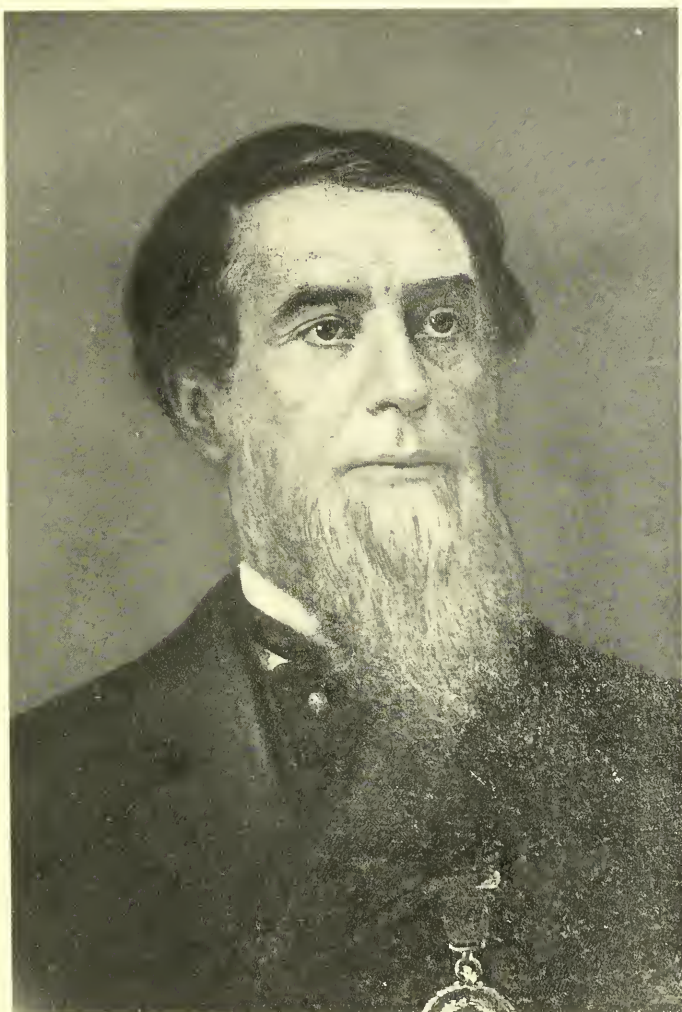
September 25, 1905, the Grand Lodge, by resolution, authorized the appointment of a committee to take under advisement and report some plan for the general celebration of the two hundredth anniversary of the formation of the Grand Lodge of England in 1817. At the communication of December 19, 1906, the committee reported that seventy-three Grand Lodges had been communicated with and their coöperation and suggestions requested, but that only twenty-four had responded, and of these but two, the Grand Lodges of Ireland and Cuba, had definitely approved of the plan of a general celebration.

At the installation communication of 1905, in accordance with the suggestion of the Grand Master in his address and the favorable recommendation in reference thereto by the

special committee on said address, the Grand Master appointed the following named brethren as a committee to arrange for the proper celebration of the Centennial of the Grand Lodge, occurring in 1911: Bros. W. W. Jermane, Nathaniel Fugitt, Luther F. Speer, Andrew Wilson, Charles J. James, Thomas P. Morgan, and Frank H. Thomas. Of these two—Bros. Nathaniel Fugitt and Frank H. Thomas—passed away in the course of the two years following, and the vacancies thus created were filled by the appointment of Bros. Claude F. King and Roe Fulkerson. The personnel was again changed in 1909 by the resignation, on account of ill health, of the chairman, Bro. W. W. Jermane, and the appointment to that position of W. Bro. Jas. A. Wetmore, and the resignation of Bro. Thomas P. Morgan and the appointment of Bro. J. Harry Cunningham, and in 1910 by the resignation of W. Bro. Jas. A. Wetmore and the appointment as chairman of Bro. E. St. Clair Thompson.

At the same meeting and also by authority of the Grand Lodge, upon the recommendation of the same committee the Grand Master appointed W. Bro. Kenton N. Harper, of Naval Lodge, No. 4, as Historian, with directions to prepare a comprehensive history of this Grand Lodge and of Freemasonry in the District of Columbia, to become one of the features of the above celebration.

The laying of the cornerstone of the Office Building of the House of Representatives, adjoining the Capitol, occurred April 14, 1906, and was the occasion of one of the greatest Masonic processions in the jurisdiction, the escort comprising the five commanderies and Grand Commandery, K. T., of the District, and large delegations from the subordinate lodges, headed and accompanied by the Marine and Engineer Bands. On arriving at the site, the Grand Lodge was conducted to a platform erected for the occasion, on which were seated Bro. Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States; Bro. Charles W. Fairbanks, Vice-President; Bro. Joseph G. Cannon, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Bro. James D. Richardson, Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme



GEORGE C. WHITING,  
GRAND MASTER, 1857-1861, 1865-1867



Council, A. A. S. R., for the Southern Jurisdiction; members of the Cabinet; Justices of the Supreme Court; members of the Senate and House of Representatives; members of the Diplomatic Corps; officers of the Army and Navy, and an audience of 5,000 people, including a large number of ladies. After the Masonic ceremonies and an address by the Grand Master, M. W. Bro. Walter A. Brown, the President was presented by Speaker Cannon, and delivered his celebrated address which has gone into history with the title "The Man with the Muck Rake."

During this month the handsome sum of \$2,616.50 was promptly contributed by the Masonic bodies of the District and forwarded by wire to the Pacific Coast sufferers. Of this sum \$523.30 was subsequently returned, as being in excess of the need, and upon its receipt the Grand Lodge at once donated its share of the sum returned to the Masonic and Eastern Star Home, which action was followed in due time by all the bodies interested.

May 5, 1906, death claimed one of the brightest minds in the list of Past Grand Masters ever given to the service of Masonry in this jurisdiction, in the person of M. W. Bro. George Harold Walker, whose life and works are given elsewhere, and whose taking off in the full vigor of middle life left a void difficult, indeed, to fill.

On June 19 of the same year the Grand Lodge laid the cornerstone of the P. E. Church of the Advent, Second and U Streets, N. W.; on October 16 proceeded by special train to the site of the Masonic and Eastern Star Home, and dedicated the completed west wing thereof, and on November 22, following, laid the cornerstone of the Synagogue of the Adas Israel Congregation, Sixth and I Streets, N. W.

The reports for the year 1906 show no falling off in the rapid increase which had marked the aggregate membership for some years, a total of 7,999 Master Masons appearing as in good standing at the end of the year.

A third successful fair was held for the Temple fund in May, 1907, and on June 8 was laid the cornerstone of the



Temple, Thirteenth Street and New York Avenue, a detailed account of which event, together with the history of the movement from its inception, and a description of the building. etc., may be found in a special chapter devoted to the subject.

The Washington gavel, so-called from having been first used by President Washington in laying the cornerstone of the Capitol Building, was used on this occasion. It was made in 1793, from the marble used in the construction of the Capitol, is one of the most cherished relics of the jurisdiction. and is the property of Potomac Lodge, No. 5, to whose Master it was handed by Washington upon the conclusion of the ceremonies referred to. Altho in 1853 the Grand Lodge requested the transfer to it of the valued souvenir Potomac naturally did not feel justified in parting with it, and retains it, safeguarded beyond the possibility of loss, and never allows it to leave the custody of a special committee, said committee accompanying it on all its journeys. The various occasions on which it has been used or was present constituting a subject of sufficient interest to warrant a place in this work, the following list, prepared some years since by Bro. J. H. Yarnell, Secretary of Potomac Lodge, with later additions by the author, is here appended:

1793, September 18, cornerstone, United States Capitol.

1824, August 22, cornerstone, City Hall, D. C.

1829, August 8, laying the first stone of the Baltimore & Susquehanna R. R., on the 100th anniversary of the City of Baltimore, Md.

1847, May 1, cornerstone, Smithsonian Institution.

1848, July 1, cornerstone, Washington Monument.

1851, July 4, extension, U. S. Capitol.

1853, New Baptist Church, Thirteenth Street.

1853, Sixth Presbyterian Church.

1854, West Presbyterian Church.

1854, Metropolitan M. E. Church (Grant's and McKinley's church).

1854, Methodist Church, Georgetown, D. C.

1855, German Reformed Church.

1857, Ebenezer M. E. Church.

1858, February 22, equestrian statue of General Washington at Richmond, Va.

1858, August 9, cornerstone, Masonic Hall, Georgetown, D. C.

1859, New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, Lincoln's church.

1860, February 22, Clark Mills' equestrian statue of Washington, Washington, D. C.

1865, Washington Protestant Orphan Asylum.

1867, German Lutheran Church, Georgetown, D. C.

1867, First Baptist Church, Georgetown, D. C.

1867, November 10, cornerstone, soldiers' monument, Antietam.

1868, Lincoln memorial monument.

1868, Mt. Vernon Methodist Church.

1868, Metropolitan Presbyterian Church.

1868, Masonic Temple, Washington, D. C.

1870, Foundation, Steuben Monument, Scheutzen Park, D. C.

1870, Dedication Masonic Temple, Washington, D. C.

1872, Independent German Protestant Church.

1872, Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, Pa.

1873, Masonic Hall, Brightwood, D. C.

1877, All Soul's Church, D. C.

1881, Congregation of the Tabernacle.

1881, October 18, dedication Yorktown monument, Yorktown, Va.

1882, Post-office, Baltimore, Md.

1884, Washington Light Infantry Armory.

1885, February 21, completion Washington Monument, Washington, D. C.

1894, Cornerstone, Naval Lodge Building, D. C.

1896, October 21, American University, Washington, D. C.

1897, North Carolina Avenue Presbyterian Church.

1897, Hebrew Tabernacle, Eighth Street between G and H Streets, Northwest.

- 1897, Christian Church, Ninth and D Streets.
- 1898, Douglas Memorial Church, Eleventh and H Streets.
- 1898, August 10, cornerstone, Pennsylvania State Capitol, Harrisburg, Pa.
- 1899, Baptist Church, Thirtieth and N Streets, Northwest.
- 1899, Masonic Lodge, Gaithersburg, Md.
- 1899, December 14, Washington Centennial, Mount Vernon, Va.
- 1902, November 5, sesqui-centennial initiation of Washington into Masonry, Philadelphia.
- 1903, February 21, Army War College.
- 1903, May 1, Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis.
- 1903, Foundry M. E. Church.
- 1904, Memorial Continental Hall.
- 1905, May 17, Masonic and Eastern Star Home, D. C.
- 1905, May 22, Eckington Presbyterian Church.
- 1906, Office Building of the House of Representatives.
- 1907, New Masonic Temple.

In addition, it was used at the celebration of the Centennial of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, at the laying of the cornerstones of the Baltimore City Hall, and the Deaf and Dumb Asylum at Frederick, Md., and locally at some ceremony in connection with the opening of the C. & O. Canal and at the cornerstone layings of the old Market House and Bank of Columbia, Georgetown, D. C., the dates of the latter events not being available or important.

It was used officially by the following Presidents of the United States: 1793, George Washington, cornerstone, United States Capitol; 1847, James K. Polk, cornerstone, Smithsonian; 1851, Millard Fillmore, extension, United States Capitol; 1860, James Buchanan, Clark Mills' statue of Washington; 1899, William McKinley, Washington Centennial, Mount Vernon, Va.; 1902, Theodore Roosevelt, sesqui-centennial Washington's initiation into Masonry, Philadelphia, Pa., and upon other occasions.

Two other cornerstones were laid during the year 1907—that of Bethany Baptist Church, Rhode Island Avenue and



CHARLES F. STANSBURY,  
GRAND MASTER, 1862, 1871-1874



Second Street, N. W., October 30, and that of Northminster Presbyterian Church, Eleventh Street and Rhode Island Avenue, N. W., November 5.

The death of P. G. Master Robert Bruce Donaldson, November 22, 1907, was a serious loss to the local Fraternity. For many years the Dean of the Corps of P. G. Masters, a man of unusual attainments and ripened judgment, his advice had been sought, and cheerfully given, in all mooted questions for more than a generation, and his lovable disposition had endeared him to the brethren of this jurisdiction to a remarkable degree.

With the realization of the hope of years, the new Temple being now in actual course of construction, came a quickened life into Masonic circles, waning interest was renewed, and material prosperity followed naturally. The enthusiasm awakened by the early prospect of modern, commodious, and handsome quarters found its expression in many ways, and in none more strikingly than in the selection of the name "Temple" for a new lodge owing its formation entirely to the re-energizing effect of that project.

On October 12, 1907, on proper petition and representation, the Grand Master, M. W. Bro. Francis J. Woodman, issued a dispensation to certain brethren to organize a lodge, and at the annual communication of the same year, December 18, a charter was ordered to issue to Bros. Thomas C. Noyes, Louis C. Wilson, John Paul Earnest, and seventy-eight others, the largest charter list of record, to open and hold a lodge to be known as Temple Lodge, No. 32, the three brethren named being nominated in their order as the first three officers. Starting with the prestige of a host of locally well-known names on their roster, it inevitably followed that the success of this lodge was assured from the very start, an assurance which the several years of its existence has amply justified.

The formal dedication of the new Temple occurred September 19, 1908, and is treated of in Chapter XIV, while a detailed account of this important event may be found in the Grand Lodge Proceedings, 1908, p. 24 *et seq.*



The third communication of the Grand Lodge, held September 26, 1908, was its last assemblage in the old Temple, and was commemorated by a farewell address by the Grand Chaplain, Rev. Brother Joseph Dawson. After closing in ample form, the brethren present joined hands and united in singing "Auld Lang Syne."

A "House Warming," extending from September 28 to October 10, in the new Temple, afforded the public an opportunity to inspect the building, and incidentally added in the neighborhood of \$10,000 to the treasury of the Temple Association.

November 19, 1908, the cornerstone of a building for the use of Wm. R. Singleton Lodge, No. 30, was laid at Tenleytown, D. C.

On April 11, 1909, P. G. Master José M. Yznaga, and on November 25, 1909, P. G. Master David G. Dixon, passed away. Both of these brethren had for years been closely and actively identified with local Masonry, were well known and beloved, and their demise was sincerely mourned.

At a special communication, November 20, 1909, the Grand Lodge took the necessary steps looking to the assumption of control of the new Temple, an event of importance, as being the only instance in the history of the jurisdiction where such control was consummated. The various movements leading up to and following this action are treated elsewhere.

On March 22, 1910, occurred the death of P. G. Master Eldred G. Davis, one of the most valued members of the Fraternity, and for a long time the chairman of the Committee on Jurisprudence. His activity in Masonic work continued up to the end, which came suddenly and cast a gloom over the entire jurisdiction.

On May 12, 1910, Grand Master George C. Ober, assisted by the other officers of the Grand Lodge, formally dedicated to Masonry the Cathedral of the Scottish Rite, long known as "The House of the Temple," at Third and E Streets, N. W., which had lately been acquired by the local subordinate bodies of the Rite.

Among the Masonic events of the year 1910 the open-air religious service which took place at Mt. St. Albans Sunday afternoon, September 25, is deserving of special notice. In response to an invitation from the Rt. Rev. Alfred Harding, Bishop of Washington, Grand Master George C. Ober issued a call to the Master Masons of the jurisdiction to attend him on that occasion. Favored with ideal weather, approximately three thousand five hundred members of the Fraternity, the largest number ever gathered in this jurisdiction for a public demonstration, assembled at the intersection of Wisconsin and Massachusetts Avenues, and escorted by the five local commanderies of Knights Templar, and headed by a section of the Marine Band, marched to the Peace Cross in Cathedral Close and in company with a large concourse of visitors took part in the beautiful and impressive service of the Episcopal Church, in the course of which the Right Reverend Brother, Bishop Harding, made an address and Rev. Brother J. Henning Nelms, Rector of the Church of the Ascension, delivered the sermon, the dominant note throughout being the co-operation which should exist between the Church and the Masonic Order.

The last charter for the formation of a lodge during the first century of the existence of the Grand Lodge was ordered to issue at the Annual Communication of December 21, 1910, and was in response to a petition signed by sixty-five Master Masons in good standing, to open and hold a lodge to be known as Mt. Pleasant Lodge, No. 33, in the northwestern section of the city. The petition, which was recommended by Stansbury Lodge, No. 24, nominated as the first three officers Bros. Richard C. Lewis, Charles H. Bradley, and Edwin Allen Swingle as Master, Senior Warden, and Junior Warden, respectively. This lodge invades a practically unbroken field in the Greater Washington and there is every reason to predict for it a prosperous career.

During this year the Committee on Centennial Observance, having previously been given full authority, perfected the general arrangements for the fitting celebration of the one

hundredth anniversary of the birth of the Grand Lodge, and at the date of publication are carefully working out the details of the series of events contemplated.

From the time of the actual initiation of the movement to give prominence to this event there was in evidence a strong undercurrent of sentiment that the celebration should be pitched on a higher plane than is usual, and no pains nor expense spared to make it in every way commensurate with the dignity and importance of the jurisdiction.

The plans of the Committee as finally perfected on the eve of publication embody the following arrangements and cover a period of three days:

1. A general reception at the new Masonic Temple Saturday evening, February 18, 1911.

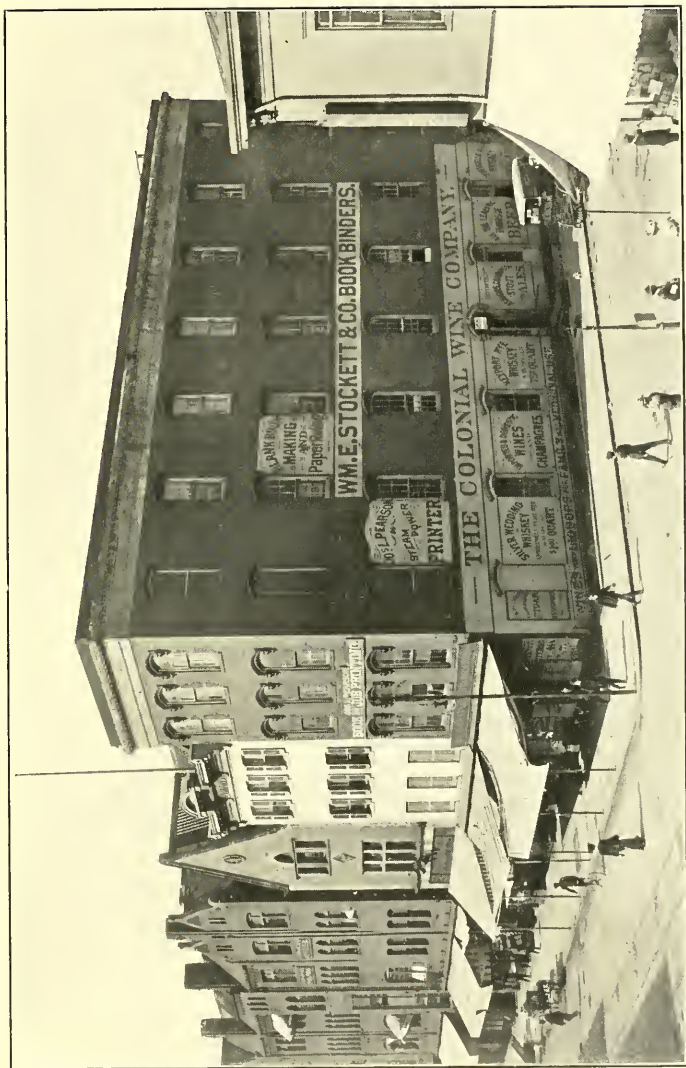
2. A religious service in Belasco Theater Sunday afternoon, February 19, 1911 (the actual date of birth), at which it is proposed to have addresses by men of national reputation and recognized eminence and learning, who are members of the Fraternity.

3. A session of the Grand Lodge the morning of the 20th of an historical and reminiscent character.

4. On the evening of the last-named date a banquet in honor of the visiting Grand Masters.

Among the brethren who are expected to be in attendance are the President of the United States and the Grand Masters of seventy-eight Grand Lodges, representing some two million Master Masons.

The Committee is as follows: E. St. Clair Thompson, B. B. French Lodge, No. 15, chairman; Charles J. James, Anacostia Lodge, No. 21; Thomas C. Noyes, Temple Lodge, No. 32; Claude F. King, Temple Lodge, No. 32; Andrew Wilson, Benjamin B. French Lodge, No. 15; Roe Fulkerson, Harmony Lodge, No. 17, and Luther F. Speer, Columbia Lodge, No. 3, with the following subcommittees: Printing, invitation, and entertainment, Charles J. James; reception, Claude F. King; publicity, Thomas C. Noyes; religious serv-



SECOND "CENTRAL" MASONIC HALL, SOUTHWEST CORNER NINTH AND D STREETS. N. W.  
Home of the Grand Lodge and a number of subordinate Lodges from 1855 to 1870.



ices, Andrew Wilson; special representative Grand Lodge, L. F. Speer; banquet, Roe Fulkerson.

A verbatim report of these several events will be published as an appendix to the Grand Lodge Proceedings of 1911, and probably also in pamphlet form for free distribution.

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Thus is the history of Freemasonry in the District of Columbia brought to date. What the future holds of prosperity and reverse is known only to the great I Am, nor should we care to lift the vail. Suffice it that on the eve of the one hundredth anniversary of the institution of the Grand Lodge we may felicitate ourselves on a magnificent record of achievement, and thus inspired it is for us to highly resolve that the precious heritage of a united, harmonious, and powerful jurisdiction which has come down to us shall ever remain a sacred trust and be transmitted unimpaired to our successors.



## CHAPTER XIII.

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### MEETING PLACES OF THE FRATERNITY.

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WHERE THE ALTARS OF THE GRAND AND SUBORDINATE LODGES  
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HAVE BEEN ERECTED  
DURING THE CENTURY PRECEDING THE  
PRESENT TEMPLE MOVEMENT.

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*"Men, my Brothers, men, the Workers, ever reaping something new;  
That which they have done but the earnest of the things that they  
shall do."*—TENNYSON.

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AS THE MANNER in which a man is housed may usually be considered to measurably express the degree of prosperity he enjoys, so also is it possible to accurately gauge the gain or loss, the success or failure, of an organization by the character of its homes. Freemasonry presents no exception to this rule, and in the story of the many meeting places of the Craft in the District of Columbia during the century just closed there lies so complete and clear a history of the material vicissitudes of the Fraternity as to warrant the devotion of a chapter to so much of the subject as covers the period from the beginning until the inauguration of the movement which resulted in the magnificent Temple of today, paying especial attention at this time to those buildings in which the Grand Lodge has found a succession of homes or has met on emergent occasions, and glancing hastily at the earlier subordinate lodge buildings as they relate to the growth of the Order.

The march of improvements has swept away some few of

these structures, yet there remain a remarkable number—veritable landmarks—which stand as mute witnesses to the progress of Freemasonry in our midst, and unfold a tale which he that runs may read.

The earlier lodges of Georgetown are known to have met in private houses, but the first definite location of a Masonic lodge within the present limits of the District is that of Federal Lodge, No. 15, of Maryland (later No. 1 of this jurisdiction), which in 1793 met in a room specially fitted for its use in the residence of one of the members, on New Jersey Avenue, just south of the Capitol, and now included in the site of the House of Representatives Office Building. In 1796, desiring a more central location, this lodge moved to a small hostelry, known as the "Little Hotel," on the north side of F Street, near Fourteenth, N. W., where they found not only quarters for their meetings but likewise convenient refreshment, and where they remained for about eight years.

Columbia, No. 35, of Maryland (later our No. 3), which came into existence in 1802 and was largely composed of Treasury employés, found a temporary home in a building known as Lovell's Hotel, on Pennsylvania Avenue between Fourteenth and Fifteenth Streets, N. W., but united in 1804 with Federal, in the first Masonic building enterprise in the District. This consisted of the purchase of part of Lot 14. Square 323, 23 by 50 feet, on Eleventh Street, N. W., just south of Pennsylvania Avenue, and the erection thereon of a two-story brick building, known as "Union Lodge Room." The second floor, fitted up for lodge purposes and originally reached by an outside stairway on the south side, was used by Federal and Columbia for over twenty years, and also by Lebanon, after its birth in 1811. Here, too, the Grand Lodge, upon its formation, found a home for a number of years. In addition to its Masonic use, the building was the headquarters of the Boards of Aldermen and Common Council, and also housed the old Washington Library and Vine Lyceum Society. In later years it was occupied by the colored Masons, and within a comparatively few years was demolished to make room for

the new City Post-Office. Some idea of the condition of affairs in the city in the early days may be gathered from the fact that in 1824 Washington R. A. Chapter, No. 1, took steps to induce the other Masonic bodies meeting in the building to join with them in causing to be made a "gravel footway from this Hall east to the middle of Eleventh Street, and north to the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue. \* \* \*"

Washington Naval Lodge, No. 41, of Maryland (now our local No. 4), which was warranted in 1805, found rented quarters on Seventh Street, S. E., near the Navy Yard gate. The house, a small two-story brick, somewhat modernized exteriorly, still stands and is occupied as a dwelling, known as 1129 Seventh Street, S. E., and is a fair sample of the honest, sturdy workmanship of the early part of the last century. The upper floor was used for strictly lodge purposes and the lower as a school, the school teacher, frequently the widow or orphan child of a deceased Mason, attending to the care of the lodge room in lieu of rent.

The Georgetown lodge, reviving in 1806 under the style and title of Potomac, No. 43, of Maryland, located in the residence of Valentine Reintzel, the Master, and afterward the first Grand Master of the District—a three-story brick dwelling on the west side of Jefferson Street, between the canal and Water Street. This landmark was destroyed by fire in 1857. The growth of the lodge in a few years demanding more commodious quarters, overtures were made to the Corporation of Georgetown looking to the joint erection at the Market Space of a building which might serve as a Town House and Masonic Hall, but, failing in this, a lot was leased on the west side of Jefferson Street, just north of the canal, and the cornerstone of a building laid by Potomac Lodge, in ample Masonic form, October 18, 1810. This building, still standing, was in the possession of and used by the lodge until 1840.

By way of recapitulation, then, we find the five lodges which took part in the formation of the Grand Lodge in 1810–11, located as follows: Federal and Columbia, at the Union

Lodge Room, on Eleventh Street, N. W.; Washington Naval, in leased quarters on Seventh Street, S. E.; Potomac, in its own hall on Jefferson Street, Georgetown, and Brooke Lodge, in Alexandria, Va.

The Grand Lodge naturally found its first home in Union Lodge Room, but as early as 1816 a movement was started looking to the procuring of a more suitable Masonic building, but the Grand Lodge frowning upon the project it "died a-borning," and the next development in this line was the erection, by Naval Lodge, No. 4, of a two-story brick building on the northwest corner of Fifth Street and Virginia Avenue, S. E., in 1820-1, at a cost of \$3,327.01. This unpretentious structure, located in the center of the most populous section of the Hill, was not only the home of Naval, and Union Lodge, No. 6, during its life, but also for a number of years supplied quarters for a school room for many of our older citizens of Capitol Hill.

For the first half century of the existence of the Grand Lodge, the distances between the several sections of the city being great, the roads of the worst, and the means of transportation the most primitive, the communications, both regular and special, were frequently held in the different lodge rooms. east, west, and central, and even Alexandria, as a matter of accommodation to all the members, and thus, altho from time to time acquiring some proprietary interest in certain rooms as headquarters, the Grand Lodge led a nomadic existence from its origin until the occupation of the Temple at Ninth and F Streets, N. W., and it may be noted in passing that other than lodge rooms were sometimes used on emergent occasions, as we find a meeting opened February 26, 1826, in the City Hall, on the First Degree, for the purpose of proceeding to St. John's Church, to listen to a discourse on, "Washington," and at another time a meeting opened in this same church to attend a cornerstone laying. These instances need not be multiplied, but uncover a condition of affairs unknown at present.

In 1826 the southwest corner of D and Four-and-a-half Streets, N. W. (John Marshall Place), was selected and purchased as the site for a new Temple, the recent erection of the City Hall in that neighborhood commending it as a proper location. The deed to the property, which was purchased of B. O. Tyler, was made to Andrew Tate, Jacob A. Bender, W. W. Seaton, and Wm. Hewitt, the Masters, respectively, of Lodges 1, 3, 7, and 9. The cornerstone was laid September 19, 1826, with elaborate ceremonies. The Grand Lodge was opened in ample form in St. John's Church, and proceeded to the site, escorted by a procession of so varied and dignified a character and so unique withal as to deserve detailed description, and no apology is needed for reproducing *in extenso* the order of arrangement, which was as follows:

- Tylers of Lodges Nos. 1, 3, 7, and 9, with drawn swords.
- Two Stewards, with white rods.
- Entered Apprentice Masons.
- Fellows of the Craft.
- Master Masons.
- Junior Deacons of Lodges.
- Senior Deacons.
- Secretaries.
- Treasurers.
- Past Junior Wardens.
- Past Senior Wardens.
- Past Masters.
- Masters of Lodges.
- Members and Officers of Washington Royal Arch Chapter.
- The Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia.
- Music.
- Grand Tyler and Grand Steward.
- Two Stewards, with white rods.
- Reverend Clergy of the District of Columbia.
- Architect of the Public Buildings.
- Assistants Postmaster-General.
- Commissioner of the General Land Office.
- Register of the Treasury of the United States.
- Auditors of the Treasury.
- Treasurer of the United States.
- Comptrollers of the Treasury.
- Commissioners of the Navy, with their Secretary.
- Senior Naval Officer at the seat of Government.

- Topographical Engineer.
- Chief Engineer of the United States.
- Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the United States, with the General Staff of the Army at the City of Washington.
- Librarian of Congress.
- Members and Officers of Congress.
- Functionaries of Foreign Governments.
- Heads of Departments, including the Postmaster General.
- Members of the Board of Common Council.
- President and Secretary of that Board.
- Mayors of Alexandria and Georgetown.
- Mayor and Register of the City of Washington.
- Grand Pursuivant, with drawn Sword.
- Master Builders of the Edifice, with trowels, planes, &c. (each with his appropriate tool).
- Architect of the Work.
- The Golden Plumb, Level, Square, Compasses, and Mallet, each borne by a Master Mason.
- A Master Mason, with the Cornucopia.
- Two Master Masons, with Cups—one with Wine, the other Oil.
- The Corinthian, Ionic, and Doric Lights, borne by three Master Masons.
- Two Stewards, with white rods.
- Deacons of the Grand Lodge.
- Past Grand Secretaries and Treasurers.
- Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer.
- BIBLE
- (Borne by a Past Master, with a Steward on each side).
- Grand Chaplain and Orator.
- The Book of Constitutions, borne by a Master Mason.
- General Committee to superintend the Building, and Committee of Arrangements.
- Past Grand Wardens.
- Grand Wardens, bearing the Ionic and Doric Orders.
- Past Deputy Grand Masters.
- Deputy Grand Master, bearing the Corinthian Order.
- The Globe, borne by a Master Mason.
- Past Grand Masters.
- A Herald, with a Golden Rod.
- The Grand Master, attended by a Herald on each side, with a Golden Rod.
- Grand Sword Bearer.
- Two Stewards, with Rods.
- Judges of the several Courts of the District of Columbia.
- Marshal of the District and his Deputies.
- Clerks of Courts of the District with their Assistants.
- Officers and members of Literary and other Societies.
- Professors and Students of Seminaries of Learning.
- Military and Naval Officers not before enumerated.
- Citizens and Strangers.



The stone was placed by the then Grand Master, John N. Moulder, assisted by his officers, and the oration delivered by Past Grand Master W. W. Seaton, the exercises being interspersed by appropriate musical selections, rendered by a choir of ladies and gentlemen and by a band. Upon the conclusion of the ceremonies, and after "three cheers by the assembled multitude," the procession proceeded to the City Hall, and partook of a collation.

This Temple, originally known as "Central," and later as "Free-Masons" Hall, which for a comparatively short period was the home of the several bodies mentioned and the Grand Lodge, is still standing, a three-story structure, and has been for many years used as an office building. At the time of its completion, the upper story was used for Masonic purposes and the remainder was sub-let. Small as the building appears to our modern eyes, it is of interest to note that it was the scene of the inaugural ball ushering in Andrew Jackson's second administration, in 1833, and within its walls was also held one of the three inaugural balls marking the induction of the first Harrison into the Presidential office.

In December, 1827, Masonry entered the as yet unbroken field of the old First Ward, Hiram Lodge, No. 10, being instituted and finding quarters in the eastern edifice of the famous old Seven Buildings, northwest corner Pennsylvania Avenue and Nineteenth Street, N. W., a building which had been used by President Madison as a residence for a time, while the White House was being rebuilt after its destruction by the British. Subsequently, however, the Town Hall, over the Western Market, in the triangular reservation bounded by Pennsylvania Avenue, Twentieth and I Streets, and facing Twentieth Street, was used as a meeting place until 1846. This building was a wooden, two-story structure, the upper floor being reached by an exterior stairway, on which, it is said, candidates were obliged to wait the pleasure of the lodge, no matter what the weather.

The Fraternity was now entering upon troublous times. The anti-Masonic wave was gathering force and sweeping



YELVERTON P. PAGE,  
GRAND MASTER, 1863.



over the country, and this jurisdiction was not spared. The decade between 1830 and 1840 witnessed the serious crippling of the little band, the revenues were greatly reduced and the meeting of the obligations incurred in the building at Four-and-a-Half and D Streets became a matter of serious and increasing difficulty. In 1835 the trouble culminated. Liens were on the building, and those who held them were threatening to enforce; the lodges were even in debt for the furniture in use, and the outlook was, indeed, gloomy. Under these circumstances, the lodges owning the premises ordered their trustees to convey the property in trust to Grand Master Wm. W. Billing, with authority to sell the same, and apply the proceeds to the liquidation of the debts, and if any surplus remained to divide it among the lodges interested. The property was thus conveyed to Brother Billing, February 17, 1835, and on the following day by him conveyed to Bro. John Purdy, in fee simple, the consideration being that said Purdy should fully pay and satisfy all claims, provided said claims did not exceed the sum of \$5,000. Brother Purdy, then, having discharged the debts, on February 20, 1835, executed a lease for ninety-nine years to Grand Master Billing, his executors, administrators, or assigns, by which, in consideration of \$60 annual rental and certain agreements and covenants, the Fraternity might have perpetual right of occupancy of the third floor of the building. On May 5, 1835, Grand Master Billing offered to assign the leasehold to the Grand Lodge, with the understanding that that body should assume the payment of the annual rental of \$60, subject to the terms and conditions on which the property was held by him. While this course was recommended by a committee, the Grand Lodge took no action that is of record, but for a period of years, the leasehold still remaining in Brother Billing's name, the rents were collected through the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer, and the Grand Lodge was in virtual control. and this is the only instance in the history of the local Craft, until the taking over of the present Temple in 1910, where even an attempt was made to vest title to real estate in the

Grand Lodge. On December 24, 1842, W. W. Billing assigned his trust to Abraham Butler, Joel Downing, and Nathaniel Mulliken, with the consent of the Masonic bodies interested. The lease, however, had already become forfeited by reason of non-payment of rent, and the lessor, Brother Purdy, entered into possession. This action appears to have awakened the lodges involved; an injunction was obtained to restrain Purdy from further proceedings, and a special convention was held February 13, 1843, when it was resolved to make over to the Grand Lodge, for its use and benefit and for the use and benefit of the subordinate lodges, all right, title, claim, or interest which said lodges had in or to said Masonic Hall. But it was too late. On March 30th, following, the cause was heard on the bill and the answer of Purdy, and was dissolved and the bill dismissed, and Brother Purdy entered into quiet possession of the premises. Carrying the story of this episode at once to its conclusion it may be mentioned that charges were preferred against Brother Purdy for his actions in connection with the loss of title, but the charges were not pressed, and the whole matter laid dormant for thirteen years, when a very complete report of the whole transaction was brought in by a committee, headed by the late B. B. French, in 1858, which appeared to exonerate Brother Purdy from blame, and while the Grand Lodge again failed of action, the incident then and there closed.

After the removal of the injunction, the Masonic tenants were literally set out on the street. In this emergency the Grand Master, Robert Keyworth, had some of the furniture moved and stored, and called a convention of the interested bodies, which met "in a room near Brother Greer's printing office." The convention authorized the sale at auction of the fragments of furniture still remaining unstored, and directed the division of the proceeds among the lodges, which, having been done, Brother Keyworth, on his own responsibility, found quarters in a building on the northwest corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Twelfth Street. This room was fitted up with the furniture saved from the old hall, and Lodges 1 and

7 agreed to occupy it jointly with the Grand Lodge, No. 9 having, in the meantime, found quarters in the old Circus Building, now Havener's Bakery, on C Street, N. W., near Four-and-a-Half. This separation gave rise to considerable controversy as to the proper division of the furniture, which lasted for quite a period, but is not of sufficient importance to follow in detail.

While these troubles were being experienced by the centrally located lodges, Potomac Lodge, of Georgetown, had sold their property on Jefferson Street, but continued to rent the same room until 1842, when they bought a house on Washington Street (now Thirtieth), opposite to the Union Hotel, the third story of which they fitted up as a lodge room and occupied for the next twelve years.

St. John's Lodge, No. 11, chartered December 27, 1845, in the midst of these troublous times, found a fairly convenient home in the building on the northeast corner of Four-and-a-Half Street (John Marshall Place) and Pennsylvania Avenue, known as "Odeon Hall," which is still standing, where they remained for some years. There is some slight evidence that Nos. 1 and 9 also met in this building in 1844, but this lacks verification.

Hiram, also, during the year 1846 found a new home in what was known as "Smith's Stable," Nineteenth Street, between Pennsylvania Avenue and I Street, N. W. During their occupancy this building burned, but was immediately replaced by the structure which now stands on the site.

In the same years the upper floor of the old Medical College building at Tenth and E Streets was occupied by the Grand Lodge and several of the subordinate lodges, and in 1847 an offer was made to sell the upper floor to the Fraternity. This was not acted upon, but by 1849 Nos. 1, 7, 9, and 12 were meeting here. Increasing prosperity and comparatively rapid growth soon, however, made the brethren restive in these unsatisfactory quarters, much too contracted and reached by a "rickety, dirty, and unlighted stairway," and in 1850 a committee was appointed to devise ways and means to erect a



"Hall." This committee entered enthusiastically upon their duties by devising a plan to make the building of a national character and to solicit aid from other jurisdictions. This project meeting with the pitiful response from the outside of a total of \$139 in five years was then abandoned.

On the other side of Rock Creek Potomac again, in 1852, changed its quarters, this time selling its building on Washington Street and renting a part of the third floor of Forrest Hall (still standing) on High Street (now Thirty-second), and in the same year a Masonic shrine was erected in the Southwest by the institution of Centennial Lodge, No. 14, which located in Island Hall, Sixth Street and Virginia Avenue, S. W., in which building the Grand Lodge occasionally thereafter met.

In 1855 the old Medical College building was abandoned by the Fraternity, and what was thought to be more suitable quarters found in the structure yet standing on the southwest corner of Ninth and D Streets, and in this building, also known as "Central" Masonic Hall, the Grand Lodge and a number of the subordinate lodges met for a term of years.

Crossing over to Georgetown again, for the sake of chronological order, Potomac is again found to be on the move, this time purchasing the site and erecting thereon their present handsome hall, on Thirty-second Street, the cornerstone of which was laid in 1858 and the building completed early in the following year.

On November 2, 1858, was inaugurated the movement that ultimately resulted in the erection of the Temple at Ninth and F Streets, N. W., the initial step being the appointment of a committee by the Grand Lodge to act with similar committees from the various subordinate bodies. This committee, unlike its predecessors, stuck by its guns. On April 22, 1864, Congress passed an act incorporating the "Masonic Hall Association of the District of Columbia," which act was approved April 26, 1864. There were eighteen names on the charter, representing the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, United States; the General Grand Chapter Royal Arch



JAMES E. F. HOLMEAD,  
GRAND MASTER, 1864; GRAND HIGH PRIEST, 1867-1868.



Masons, United States; the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, its several subordinate lodges, and also the chapters and commanderies of the District of Columbia. The charter members, not one of whom is with us in the flesh today, were as follows: B. B. French, G. E., K. T.; Robert McMurdy, G. G. C., R. A. M.; Charles F. Stansbury, G. L., D. C.; J. W. Nairn, Lodge No. 1; N. Acker, No. 7; B. Kloman, No. 9; J. B. Turton, No. 11; L. Gassenheimer, No. 12; J. Van Riswick, No. 14; J. C. McGuire, No. 15; F. L. Harvey, No. 16; T. M. Hanson, No. 18; Noble D. Larner, No. 19; W. M., Smith, R. A. Chapter No. 1; W. G. Parkhurst, No. 2; James Steele, No. 3; Z. D. Gilman, Washington Commandery, No. 1. and W. P. Partello, Columbia, No. 2.

The directors appointed pursuant to this act purchased from Gonzaga Church and College a lot on the northwest corner of Ninth and F Streets, N. W., having a frontage of 51 feet 5 inches on Ninth Street and 131 feet 5 inches on F, for the sum of \$20,000. The buildings upon the site were put under rental temporarily, but in a few years were demolished, and on May 20, 1868, the cornerstone was laid.

Members of the Fraternity in the several Departments were excused, by Executive order, to take part in the ceremonies, and it is interesting to note that Brother Andrew Johnson, then President of the United States, marched over the entire route of parade in his character as a Master Mason. Unlike the demonstration that marked the laying of the cornerstone at Four-and-a-half and D Streets, the procession on this occasion was strictly a Masonic one, and included in its escort Commanderies 1 and 2, the G. R. A. Chapter and subordinate chapters, and followed closely the arrangement of the present day. The route was as follows: Starting at Ninth and E; down Ninth to Pennsylvania Avenue; to Fifteenth Street; to H; to New York Avenue; to Seventh Street and Massachusetts Avenue; Massachusetts Avenue to Fourth Street; to Indiana Avenue; thence to Fifth Street; along Fifth to F, and thence to Ninth. Rather a long route, one may be permitted to observe, to cover two squares.

The ceremony was most impressively conducted by Grand Master B. B. French and the oration of the day was delivered by Brother H. P. H. Bromwell, Representative from Illinois and Past Grand Master of that jurisdiction. During the exercises appropriate music was rendered by the band and by a specially organized choir. Of the singers on the platform on that occasion there remain with us three: D. L. Burnett, E. E. W. Griffin, and Charles W. Hancock, a trio of still active members of the Fraternity, to whom many honors have come.

As early as December 17, 1868, the Grand Lodge met in the Temple for a public installation, but were not permanently located there until May, 1870, in which month the building was appropriately dedicated according to the ancient usages, the oration on this occasion being delivered by the late Bro. Ben: Perley Poore.

The growth of the Fraternity at this period was not confined to the central lodges, for early in May, 1867, Naval Lodge, in the Eastern section, found it necessary to enlarge its quarters, which was done by extending the building at Fifth Street and Virginia Avenue a distance of eight feet, to the building line on Fifth Street, and adding another story.

The dedicatory ceremonies took place October 17, 1867, and gain special importance from the fact that the building had been occupied previously for forty-five years without any such formality. The building is still standing, and is owned and occupied by colored organizations.

Over in the West End another lodge room was dedicated, December 6, 1867, for Hiram Lodge, No. 10, over Redfern's Store, Northeast corner Nineteenth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. They remained here, however, a comparatively short time, the dedication of their present room, at the southwest corner of Nineteenth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, taking place October 30, 1872. For some years prior to the completion of the new Temple at Ninth and F, New Jerusalem and Hope were tenants of Hiram.

In Uniontown (Anacostia) Masonry arrived, upon the in-

stitution, March 8, 1869, of Anacostia Lodge, No. 21, which was located for a number of years in a rough two-story frame structure, on Harrison near Monroe Street, the lower story of which was long a blacksmithing establishment, but later, in 1880, purchased its present site, at that time improved by a two-story frame building, in the upper story of which the lodge met for ten years. In 1890 the present handsome edifice was erected at the corner of Jackson and Pierce Streets, the lodge meeting in Naval Lodge Hall, Fifth Street and Virginia Avenue, S. E., during the period of construction.

Stansbury, No. 24, came into existence November 12, 1873, and occupying an entirely new field, in the northern suburbs, added another meeting place, Brightwood Hall, in which it found a home, and which was dedicated to Masonry in 1874.

While the Fraternity was thus reaching out and including new territory, affairs at the Temple were anything but satisfactory. As early as May, 1876, the financial conduct of that enterprise was becoming a matter of serious moment, and for a period of years a number of abortive attempts were made to ease the situation, among the propositions advanced being one to call on the ladies of the Fraternity to assist in liquidating the debt; another, to ask the coöperation of other jurisdictions, and a third, to hold a fair. The second only of these experiments was tried, and, while a number of encouraging responses were received, substantial aid came not. It was the old story of history repeating itself.

In 1886, a room being dedicated in the Scottish Rite Cathedral, 1007 G Street, N. W., and several of the lodges finding quarters there, the revenues of the Temple were still further reduced, and the situation became much more embarrassing.

In 1890, at which time the Fraternity held but one-third of the stock of the Temple, an offer was received to purchase the building. The proposition was then advanced and debated to sell, divide the proceeds, and invest that portion held by the Fraternity in a site, title to which should be vested in the Grand Lodge. No decision was reached, and for the next five



years a succession of committees labored fruitlessly with the problem.

In the meantime new territory was being opened up, M. M. Parker Lodge, No. 27, being instituted in 1891, and occupying a hall at the corner of Third and H Streets, N. E., where it remained until March 22, 1893, when the Grand Lodge dedicated its meeting place, corner of Eighth and I Streets, N. E., its present quarters at Twelfth and H Streets, N. E., being dedicated and occupied, in 1897; King David, No. 28, instituted November 8, 1893, locating in Brookland, D. C., and Takoma, No. 29, born in 1895, finding a home, by dispensation, in Odd Fellows' Hall in that suburb, a building which the lodge has since acquired and especially refitted for its use.

Over on Capitol Hill Naval Lodge, No. 4, always progressive, had purchased a site at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Fourth Street, S. E., and erected thereon a large and imposing Masonic edifice, their present home, and this building was dedicated with great ceremony June 6, 1895. While the building was in course of erection, the lodge met for a short time in Potomac Lodge room, but soon asked and obtained permission to meet temporarily in Odd Fellows' Hall, Eighth Street, S. E.

With the exception of the establishment in 1901 of Wm. R. Singleton Lodge, No. 30, in Tenleytown, and the occupancy of the new Temple, Thirteenth Street and New York Avenue, N. W., this completes the list of the various meeting places of the Fraternity in the District of Columbia to the present.

The home of the local Scottish Rite bodies, on G Street, N. W., having been advantageously disposed of, those bodies, in February, 1910, took possession of the "House of the Temple" (now the Scottish Rite Cathedral) at the corner of Third and E Streets, N. W., for a number of years the headquarters of the supreme body, and this handsome building was formally dedicated to Freemasonry May 12, 1910, by the Grand Lodge, Grand Master George C. Ober officiating.

The near future will witness the completion of three Masonic buildings now in course of construction or contemplated:



**MASONIC HALL, THIRTY-SECOND STREET, GEORGETOWN, D. C.**

Occupied by Potomac Lodge, No. 5, since 1859, and by George C. Whiting Lodge, No. 22, since institution.



The new home of the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite for the Southern Jurisdiction, in Sixteenth Street, N. W.

The M. M. Parker Lodge Building, in Eighth Street, near F, N. E., and

The King David Lodge Building, at Brookland, D. C.

The present Masonic Temple furnishes material for the chapter which follows.

## CHAPTER XIV.

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### THE NEW TEMPLE.

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TENTATIVE PROPOSITIONS—ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF SUCCESSFUL PLAN—THE CORNERSTONE-LAYING AND DEDICATION—DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING.

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*"I have surely built Thee an house to dwell in, a settled place for Thee to abide in forever."*—I Kings, viii, 13.

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As indicated in the preceding chapter, the pressing need of a new Masonic Temple of proportions ample to accommodate the rapid growth of the Fraternity and of a character in keeping with the dignity of the Order began in 1890 to occupy the attention of all interested, and for a series of years many tentative propositions looking to such a consummation were advanced and carefully weighed, but an undertaking of such magnitude was not to be lightly entered upon and haste was made slowly. The briefest outline sketch of the various abortive movements alluded to is deemed of historical importance as contributing by a process of elimination toward the formation of the plan ultimately undertaken and is as follows:

Especial interest in the subject was aroused by the forcible representation of conditions by Grand Master James A. Sample in his address at the annual communication of 1890, and this was followed in 1891 by the formation of a joint committee, composed of representatives from Washington Com-

mandery, No. 1; Columbia, No. 2, and De Molay, No. 4, K. T., to investigate a project to purchase a site and erect thereon an appropriate building, and this committee, addressing Grand Master Thos. F. Gibbs, and asking the coöperation of the Grand Lodge, the latter named a committee of five to act with the above committee conditional upon the approval of the Grand Lodge at the May communication. This joint committee was short-lived by reason of the fact that the Grand Lodge on the latter date passed a resolution directing the appointment of an independent committee to examine into the matter of purchasing a site. This action was predicated on the assumption that the building then used was about to be sold, but such sale not being effected the matter was allowed to rest until attention was again called to it in 1893 by Grand Master L. C. Williamson, who strongly urged the necessity of early action and reported the appointment of a special committee to advise the Grand Lodge in the premises.

This committee not reporting, Grand Master Merrill, immediately upon his installation, December 27, 1893, urged interest in the project and appointed a committee of five to select a site. May 9, 1894, this committee reported progress, but asked that the Grand Lodge by resolution approve of the action of the Grand Master in making the appointment and authorize its continuance. The action desired was at once taken, but nothing further being heard from the committee it was, upon recommendation of the Grand Master, discharged at the annual communication of the same year to permit the incoming Grand Master to appoint a new one, should he so desire.

Events thus moving somewhat unsatisfactorily along this particular line, Pentalpha Lodge, No. 23, at its regular meeting, January 7, 1895, caused to be appointed a committee of three to "investigate and agitate" the subject of a new Temple and to invite the coöperation of similar committees from the other Masonic bodies.

In view of the fact that at the May communication of the Grand Lodge (1896) Grand Master G. W. Baird, in conformity



with a resolution then passed, appointed a special committee from the Grand Lodge to consider the matter the Pentalpha Lodge committee was discharged in the latter part of that year to leave the field open for the direction of the governing body.

The special committee reported to the Grand Lodge November 11, 1896, on the general subject, and while no further action was taken on the report than to order it to be printed and distributed, and the powers of the committee amplified so far as to authorize it to recommend a definite site, and while the active coöperation of the Grand Lodge was soon thereafter given to the late successful movement, yet the conclusions arrived at and reported by the committee are of more than passing interest, and an excerpt from that report is therefore given. After enlarging upon the necessity for a new Temple the report says:

A site can now be obtained for from \$60,000 to \$75,000, which would be ample in its accommodation, and which within two or three years would probably cost twenty-five per cent. more than at present.

It is the unanimous opinion of your committee that any action taken in this matter should be in the name of the Grand Lodge, and if a site be purchased the title should be vested in that body.

We, therefore, recommend that a situation be decided upon and secured on the credit of the Grand Lodge and that the constituent lodges centrally located be asked to pledge themselves to pay to the Grand Lodge for this purpose a sum equal to fifty cents per capita, each month, on their present membership, for a term of three years; this amount to be secured by the lodges in any manner they may consider most expedient.

The lodges centrally located report a membership of about 4,250, which number, in the above-mentioned plan, would produce something more than \$76,000.

We believe that the Masonic fraternity of the District of Columbia has as much local pride as the brethren of other cities, and that they are not only anxious to improve the appearance of their place of meeting, but greatly desire the comforts of modern improvement, and will respond with alacrity to a plan which will accomplish those ends. Look around you, brethren, and see what comparatively weak societies undertake and accomplish in this direction, and then say that 4,000 or 5,000 Masons, comprising the active business men of the Capital, cannot build and pay for a Masonic Temple, which shall not only be a credit to the Order and the city but in its interior a convenience to the Craft.

If, in three years, we can show a title in fee-simple to the ground there will be no difficulty in raising money for the building; so that in

six or seven years from now we may possess a comfortable Masonic home.

Should our recommendations be favorably considered by this Grand body, the proposition might be submitted to the constituent lodges and the result of their action considered at a special meeting of the Grand Lodge.

Fraternally yours,

THOMAS F. GIBBS,  
JAMES A. SAMPLE,  
H. S. MERRILL,  
WM. BARNUM,  
*Committee.*

While all these efforts were ineffectual they served to prepare the way for final concerted action, which had its inception at a stated conclave of Columbia Commandery, No. 2, K. T., February, 1897, when, upon motion of Sir Knight Oscar W. White, a special conclave of that body was called for the 11th of the same month for the consideration of a proposition to build a new Temple, at which meeting the following resolution was adopted:

*Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed by the Eminent Commander to consider the question of the erection of a new Masonic Temple in the City of Washington, and to this end to invite the coöperation of the other Masonic bodies of this jurisdiction through such committees as they may appoint for the same purpose; that this committee shall report to the Commandery at its earliest convenience; that the Recorder be directed to send a copy of this resolution to all other Masonic bodies of this jurisdiction.

Under the authority of this resolution the following committee was appointed: Sir Knights J. Henry Small, Jr., Chairman; George E. Emmons, George Gibson, Samuel H. Walker, and Oscar W. White.

The work of this committee of Columbia Commandery resulted in the appointment of similar committees from a majority of the Masonic bodies of the jurisdiction, and as early as the following month these committees met in convention, effected an organization, and elected as permanent Chairman of the Association, P. G. Master J. Henry Small, Jr. and as Secretary Bro. Howard Perry, following which election the chairman appointed a Committee of Ways and Means con-

sisting of Bros. A. F. Fox, Thomas Somerville, James A. Sample, James L. Norris, and C. C. Duncanson; Committee on Plans, Bros. G. W. Baird, E. G. Davis, T. M. Gale, H. L. Briscoe, and W. O. Roome; Committee on Superintendence, Bros. S. C. Palmer, George W. Evans, C. H. Smith, W. T. Galliher, and Alex. McKenzie; Committee on Law and Organization, Bros. R. B. Donaldson, S. R. Bond, S. H. Walker, Robt. I. Fleming, and F. H. Thomas; Committee on Site, Bros. Matthew Trimble, Allison Nailor, James B. Lambie, George Gibson, and Thos. P. Morgan.

The representatives to the Masonic Temple Association of the District of Columbia, as the new organization was named, were as follows: Grand Lodge, James A. Sample; Federal Lodge, No. 1, R. B. Donaldson; Columbia Lodge, No. 3, Thos. F. Gibbs; Lebanon Lodge, No. 7, Henry Orth; The New Jerusalem Lodge, No. 9, E. H. Chamberlain; Hiram Lodge, No. 10, James B. Lambie; St. John's Lodge, No. 11, Jesse W. Lee, Jr.; National Lodge, No. 12, R. C. Lewis; Washington Centennial Lodge, No. 14, William H. Baum; Benj. B. French Lodge, No. 15, Wallace H. Hills; Dawson Lodge, No. 16, Samuel R. Bond; Harmony Lodge, No. 17, Arvine W. Johnston; Acacia Lodge, No. 18, Chas. J. O'Neill; La Fayette Lodge, No. 19, Thos. P. Morgan; Hope Lodge, No. 20, Geo. W. Baird; Pentalpha Lodge, No. 23, Jos. C. Johnston; Osiris Lodge, No. 26, L. C. Williamson; King David Lodge, No. 28, Daniel G. Davis; Grand Chapter, Matthew Trimble; Columbia Chapter, No. 1, Allison Nailor, Jr.; Washington Chapter, No. 2, J. R. Garrison; Mt. Vernon Chapter, No. 3, John H. Olcott; Eureka Chapter, No. 4, Saml. H. Walker; LaFayette Chapter, No. 5, Geo. W. Evans; Mt. Horeb Chapter, No. 7, W. F. R. Phillips; Hiram Chapter, No. 10, John C. Chaney; Grand Commandery, E. G. Davis; Washington Commandery, No. 1, Howard Perry; Columbia Commandery, No. 2, J. H. Small, Jr.; De Molay Mtd. Commandery, No. 4, A. W. Kelley; Orient Commandery, No. 5, E. B. Hesse; Mithras Lodge of Perfection, H. K. Simpson; Evangelist Chapter, Rose Croix, Wm. Oscar Roome;

Robert de Bruce Council, A. H. Holt; Albert Pike Consistory, Mark D. Brainard, Sr.; Almas Temple, Harry Standiford.

Death and resignation have since caused the following changes in the above list: Ralph W. Lee and Charles F. Benjamin for Federal Lodge, No. 1; Josiah M. Vale and Frank B. Curtis, Columbia Lodge, No. 3; Walter T. Paine, Lebanon Lodge, No. 7; Wm. G. Henderson, The New Jerusalem Lodge, No. 9; Samuel Hart, Albert W. Bright, Alex. McKenzie, Morris Hahn, and A. Barnes Hooe, St. John's Lodge, No. 11; H. Kronheimer and Lafayette Leaman, National Lodge, No. 12; Ralph L. Hall and W. B. Pettus, Washington Centennial Lodge, No. 14; John R. Garrison and Jas. A. Wetmore, B. B. French Lodge, No. 15; Heath Sutherland and H. W. P. Hunt, Acacia Lodge, No. 18; J. Harry Cunningham, J. Frank Trazzare, E. C. Dutton, and J. Harry Cunningham (2d time), Hope Lodge, No. 20; W. A. Kimmel and A. M. Poynton, Pentalpha Lodge, No. 23; C. H. Buchler and Joseph Herzog, Osiris Lodge, No. 26; W. I. Jochum, Columbia Chapter, No. 1; J. G. De Moll, Washington Chapter, No. 2; Roe Fulkerson, Mt. Vernon Chapter, No. 3; Harry B. Mason, Franc. E. Sheiry, and H. K. Simpson, Eureka Chapter, No. 4; Jos. W. Zimmerman, Mt. Horeb Chapter, No. 7; Ira W. Hopkins and Mark F. Finley, Hiram Chapter, No. 10; Thos. M. Gale, Benj. S. Graves, and Chas. T. Caldwell, Washington Commandery, No. 1; Wm. H. Wunder, Orient Commandery, No. 5; Samuel E. Aler, Mithras Lodge of Perfection; Harrison Dingman, Evangelist Chapter, Rose Croix; Geo. H. Walker, B. F. Smith, and R. F. Mentzell, Robert de Bruce Council; Frank H. Thomas, Jacobus S. Jones, E. F. Frost, and F. J. Woodman, Albert Pike Consistory, the last named in each case holding at the reorganization. The following representatives were added within the last few years: Wm. F. Meyers, Arminius Lodge, No. 25; Alex. McKenzie, Temple Lodge, No. 32; F. R. Underwood, Ruth Chapter, No. 1, O. E. S.; Chas. S. Hyer, Naomi Chapter, No. 3, O. E. S., and George Gibson, Esther

Chapter, No. 5, O. E. S. The vacancy caused by the death of E. G. Davis, the Grand Commandery representative, has not yet been filled.

Steps were at once taken to have the Association regularly incorporated, and this was done by act of Congress in the spring of 1898, and was consummated by the signature of the President of the United States April 15 of that year.

Section 2 of the Act of April 15, 1898 (30 U. S. Stat., 357), provides:

That the purposes and designs of this corporation shall be the purchase of a site in the City of Washington, in said District, and the erection and maintenance thereon of a Masonic Temple, whereby the mutual improvement of its members and the tenets and the educational, benevolent, and charitable work and purposes of the Order of Free and Accepted Masons and of bodies related thereto may be promoted and advanced; and for said purposes the said corporation shall have power to take and hold, encumber and convey, such real, not exceeding one-quarter of a block, and personal estate as may be necessary therefor, to erect such buildings thereon, and to rent the same or any parts thereof as a source of revenue for the purposes aforesaid.

Section 7 provides:

That the capital stock of this corporation shall not be less than one hundred and fifty thousand dollars nor more than three hundred thousand dollars, divided into shares of ten dollars each.

At the first meeting of the Board of Managers of the Masonic Temple Association, May 28, 1898, the following officers were chosen: P. G. Master R. B. Donaldson, President; P. G. Master J. Henry Small, Jr., Vice-President; P. G. Master E. H. Chamberlain, Secretary, and Bro. Samuel H. Walker, Treasurer.

On January 7, 1899, P. G. Master R. B. Donaldson, President, resigned, and P. G. Master J. Henry Small, Jr., was elected his successor and served continuously until assumption of control by the Grand Lodge. In January 1899, P. G. Master E. H. Chamberlain having declined reelection as Secretary of the Association, he was succeeded by Bro. John R. Garrison, who served to June 4th, 1899, when he resigned owing to his





*R. B. Donaldson*

GRAND MASTER, 1869-1870.





official duties requiring him to live in San Juan, P. R. Bro. John H. Olcott was elected as his successor and served until his last illness in July, 1907, after which time the duties of the office were performed by Bro. Geo. E. Fleming, Bro. Thos. P. Morgan, Bro. C. S. Hillyer as Assistant to the Secretary, and Bro. F. R. Underwood. In January, 1901, P. G. Master Jas. A. Sample was elected to the office of Treasurer of the Association, as successor to Bro. Samuel H. Walker, and has served as such continuously to date.

The financing of the project was inaugurated by the solicitation of subscriptions to stock from the various Masonic bodies and individual brethren, and this effort was materially furthered by holding a mammoth fair in the spring of 1898, participated in by practically all the Masonic bodies of the jurisdiction.

The fair thus held netted the sum of \$46,866.01 and was so encouraging that the Committee on Site were authorized by the Association to purchase, for a sum not to exceed \$115,000, the site recommended by them on which the Temple now stands. It is officially known as Lots 29-30-31, parts of Lots 6 and 7 and all of Lots 8 and 9, Square 287, is located between Twelfth and Thirteenth Streets and H Street and New York Avenue, and contains 11,224 square feet.

So successful had been the previous effort to swell the fund through a fair that the enterprise was repeated in 1902, again in slightly different form and under the title of "May Festival," in 1905, and also, again reverting to the original plan, in 1907, each occasion outstripping the previous one in financial returns, while the final concerted effort along this line of endeavor took an entirely new form, that of a so-called "House-warming," which was held for two weeks in the new Temple, commencing September 28, 1908, and immediately following the formal turning over of the building by the contractors. Entertainments were given in the several auditoriums, with dancing and refreshments within reach, all of which were well patronized by the friends of the Fraternity and netted a very comfortable sum.

In the meantime, in 1901, the proceeds of the second fair enabling the Association to clear off the obligations on the site, tentative plans for the building were invited from various architects, and later those submitted by the firm of Wood, Donn & Deming were formally accepted.

While the undertaking had now reached a point where success was assured, the policy of deliberate action was still adhered to and ground was not broken until 1907, after the several fairs and other additions to the fund through subscription had increased it to the point where good business judgment made the venture a reasonable one.

The cornerstone of the new Temple was laid June 8, A. L. 5907, A. D. 1907. On that date the Grand Lodge in special session received as guests the officers of the Grand Chapter of R. A. Masons of the District and the following distinguished visitors: R. W. Bro. George W. Kendrick, Jr., Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania; M. W. Bro. Silvanus J. Quinn, Grand Master of Masons of Virginia; M. W. Bro. Kosciusko Kemper, Past Grand Master of Virginia; M. W. Bro. Andrew J. Hallock, Grand Master of Masons of Connecticut; M. W. Bro. John H. Barlow, Past Grand Master of Connecticut; M. W. Bro. Robert K. Stephenson, Grand Master of Masons of Delaware; M. W. Bro. William H. Nichols, Past Grand Master of Texas; M. W. Bro. Milton J. Hull, Past Grand Master of Nebraska; Bro. Francis E. Warren, representing Grand Master of Masons of Wyoming; Fredericksburg Lodge, No. 4, of Virginia, Bro. John P. Stiff, Master, bearing the Washington Bible and square; Alexandria-Washington Lodge, No. 22, of Virginia, Bro. Thomas Brackenridge Cochran, Master, bearing the Washington trowel; Guard of honor from Potomac Lodge, No. 5, viz: W. Bro. Lem. Towers, Jr., Master, and Bros. Richard S. Clifton and Irvin B. Moulton, bearing the Washington gavel.

An Entered Apprentice lodge being opened, the officers of the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter proceeded to carriages and, accompanied by an escort composed of the Grand Commandery, the five subordinate commanderies, and about 2,000

Master Masons, marching as separate lodges in the order of their juniority, proceeded to the site of the proposed building where a large concourse of people were assembled.

Immediately after the officers of the Grand bodies and their guests had assumed their places, Bro. Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States, accompanied by his Private Secretary, Bro. William Loeb, Jr., and special escort, Bro. William B. Hibbs, arrived, and after being invested by the Grand Master with aprons were escorted to seats on the platform. The following program was then rendered:

Prayer.....	W. Bro. the Rev. Richard P. Williams.
"America".....	U. S. Marine Band and Choir.
Introductory Address..	M. W. Bro. J. H. Small, Jr., P. G. M., President Masonic Temple Association.
Selection.....	U. S. Marine Band.
Ceremony of Laying Corner-stone,	
Grand Lodge of Masons of the District of Columbia,	
M. W. Bro. Francis J. Woodman, Grand Master.	
Address on behalf of the M. W. Grand Master,	
M. W. Bro. Matthew Trimble, P. G. M.	
Selection.....	U. S. Marine Band.
Address...Bro. Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States.	
Selection .....	Choir.
Address.....	Hon. Henry L. West, Commissioner, D. C.
Selection.....	U. S. Marine Band.
Addresses.....	Visiting Grand Masters.
Address.....	Hon. James D. Richardson, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Free Masonry, Southern Jurisdiction.
Selection .....	Choir.
Benediction...Brother, the Rev. Joseph Dawson, Grand Chaplain.	
Doxology.....	U. S. Marine Band and Choir.

In the evening the celebration was continued by a banquet at the Hotel Raleigh, at which a most distinguished gathering of Masons from this and other jurisdictions gathered and exchanged felicitations on the happy event of the day.

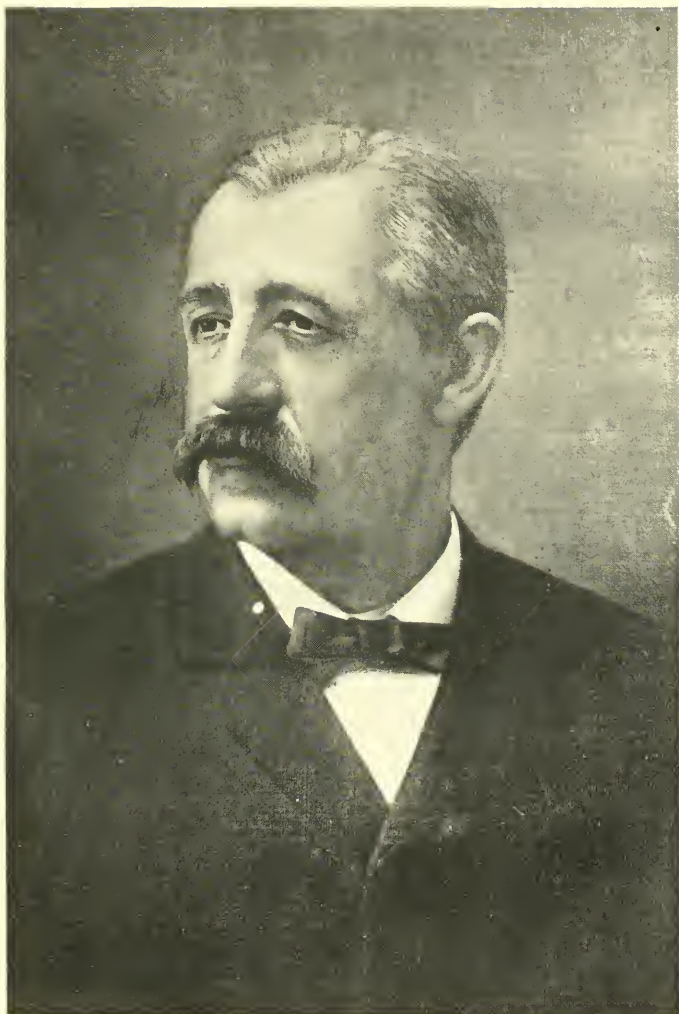
Unforeseen difficulty being met with in securing a foundation the work was delayed but was pushed with all the speed possible, and in 1908 the magnificent proportions and monumental character of the new addition to the city's architec-

tural beauty grew rapidly into evidence until the completion in September, 1908.

The dedication ceremonies took place Saturday evening, September 19, 1908, and were of the most impressive character, being opened by an invocation by Bro. Abram Simon, Rabbi of the Washington Hebrew Congregation, followed by vocal selections by a Masonic octet. P. G. Master Matthew Trimble, Vice-President of the Temple Association, in the absence of the President, P. G. Master Small, whose illness prevented his being present, delivered an oration, upon the conclusion of which the ancient Masonic form of dedication was carried out, Grand Master Augustus B. Coolidge, presiding. After addresses by the Grand Master and Rev. Bro. J. Henning Nelms the Temple was illuminated throughout and thrown open for inspection, the festive character of the evening being further emphasized by appropriate selections by a large orchestra.

And thus by regular gradations and measured steps the Fraternity in the District arrived at the goal of its ambition for a quarter of a century, the possession of a Temple worthy of Masonry and worthy of this city, the Mecca of every American. The commanding site permits of no future building being erected sufficiently near to do violence to the harmony of its surroundings or to mar its monumental effect and the wisdom and indefatigable labors of its promoters in the selection of the site and plans, and in carrying the work to a successful conclusion, deserve the heartiest appreciation of the Masonic world. Following is a brief description of the building:

It was the view of those engaged in the worthy project of "building the temple" that Washington, being the capital of the nation, the Masonic Temple located here ought to be of great dignity and simplicity and entirely in keeping with the classic public buildings for which Washington is well known. The architects have had these facts in mind and have designed a building which, by its proportions, is unmistakably a temple,



ISAAC L. JOHNSON,  
GRAND MASTER, 1875-1876; GRAND HIGH PRIEST, 1877.





but so modified as to suit the changed conditions of our time and age.

The three facades, by their several parts, convey to the mind the uses to which each part is put, the public part by large openings architecturally framed, and the secret by small openings and large, simple wall surfaces. The impression to be conveyed is that part of the building will be for public use, while a larger part will forever remain a closed book, with all its mystery, to the uninitiated.

The classic style of architecture which has been employed in this building is the most enduring and surely the one in which the Temple of the Ancients reached its greatest beauty and highest development.

The peculiar shape of the site made it possible to impress on the shortest but most important facade, facing fifty feet and eight inches on Thirteenth Street, the character of the temple so that the most ignorant might, without inquiry, know its purpose. The sides extending down New York Avenue 132 feet 6 inches and H Street 144 feet 3 inches, respectively, are a continuation of this Thirteenth Street motive, but here the windows are made much more archaic in character, and by their shape, size, and disposition lend mystic character to the structure.

The building contains five stories and a basement, with the first story about thirty feet in the main auditorium, the total height being 110 feet above the sidewalk, the greatest allowed by law on this site. It is heated by steam and has a special system of ventilation for the auditoriums, banquet hall, lodge and locker rooms. The structure is fireproof throughout, with steel-frame construction. The exterior walls, however, are self-sustaining.

The massive Indiana limestone base of the building is heavily rusticated. The principal entrance is marked by a large semicircular opening or doorway to distinguish it from the rectangular openings on the sides, which merely are entrances and exits to the auditorium.

The colonnade of the superstructure is flanked at either end

by heavily rusticated piers, which complete that part of the composition.

An attic crowns the building with an elaborate cheneau, which gives an interesting silhouette against the sky.

The whole composition is designed for a light-colored material. The base is of limestone. The cornice and other architectural features, such as the caps and bases of pilasters, trims about windows, columns, balustrades, etc., are also of limestone or terra cotta to match in color, while the main body of the whole is of a selected gray brick, pleasing to the eye and in perfect harmony with the trimmings.

The main portion of the basement and vaults extending out under the sidewalks on three sides of the building is devoted to an immense banquet hall, seating about 500 people. This room is readily accessible from the main auditorium room on the first floor and by stairways and elevators from any of the lodge rooms.

In connection with the banquet hall are two entrance halls with toilet for men, toilet and dressing room for women, and coat and hat room. The service part consists of a large kitchen, store room, and pantry, to which supplies can be brought direct from the sidewalk.

The power part of the basement consists of boiler and pump room, elevator machinery, coal vaults, and fan room for supplying fresh air to the banquet hall.

A large auditorium, practically at sidewalk level, occupies almost the entire first floor, seats about 1,500 people, and carries out all the requirements of the District of Columbia government to prevent fire and casualties from false alarms and panics. The room is also designed as a music hall, for use of choral societies or oratorio concerts, as well as for especial Masonic rites.

An unusually fine floor has been provided in the auditorium for dancing, and when balls are given the banquet hall is frequently used as a supper room, with separate stairways, dressing, coat, and toilet rooms, as described.

The auditorium is well provided with exits directly to the

sidewalk having practically an entrance at each of its four corners. Access to the auditorium can also be had from the main entrance lobby of the Temple. In addition to this lobby, which repeats on each floor, there are two elevators and a stairway.

A mezzanine story, on a level with the gallery of the auditorium, contains the office of the Board of Managers of the building.

On the second floor a spacious lobby opens from the public space and gives access to the offices of the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary, the Grand Chapter and Grand Commandery rooms, the Library, and two ample lodge rooms, one of which is located on the south side, and the other on the north side of the building. The lodge room, including ante-rooms, on the south side, is occupied under lease by the Masonic Mutual Life Association of the District of Columbia, and the room on the north side is occupied by several Chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star. The Library room is of generous dimensions and the most modern equipment, the sectional bookcases containing an unusually large collection of works of special, fraternal, and general interest, and the walls being adorned with a practically complete set of oil portraits of deceased Past Grand Masters. Special attention has been paid to the comfort of the habitués in the matter of the most approved furnishings, the latter going somewhat beyond the ordinarily rigorous demands of a library and adding a touch of the freedom of the lounging-room, an experiment which, it is interesting to note, has resulted in no abridgment of the rights of the readers and students to quiet and the absence of distracting influences. On this as on all the floors ample cloak, ante, and toilet rooms are provided.

The third floor is devoted to blue lodge Masonry and contains two lodge rooms of slightly varying dimensions, the one on the southern side of the building, with a measurement of 31 feet by 73 feet 8 inches, being designated as "Lodge Room No. 1," and that on the northern, measuring 30 feet 6 inches by 57 feet 4 inches, as "Lodge Room No. 2." The larger room,

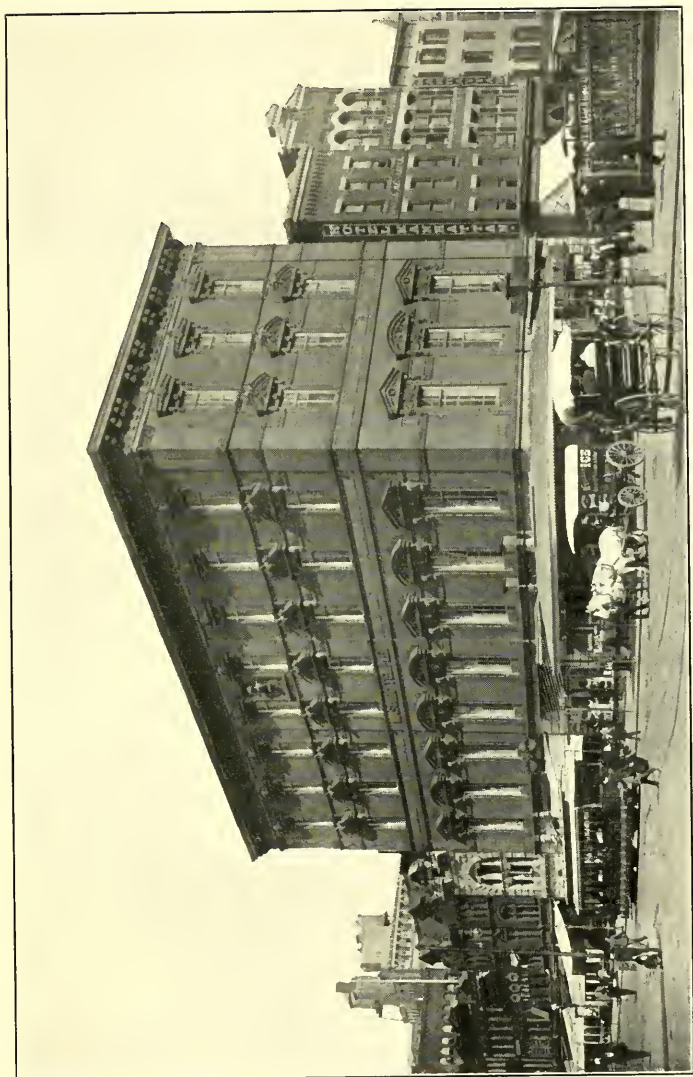
which is handsomely upholstered in blue leather with appropriately-toned carpet, is occupied by the Grand Lodge, and Lodges Nos. 1, 7, 9, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 19, while the smaller, furnished with leather upholstery, and in addition to its other attractions having a handsome pipe-organ built into a recess, is occupied by Lodges 3, 12, 18, 20, 23, 26, 31, and 32. In addition to cloak and toilet rooms, unusually commodious ante, preparation, and locker rooms are provided, together with four secluded and comfortably furnished examination rooms.

The fourth floor, with two assembly rooms of practically corresponding sizes to those on the third floor, is devoted to the Capitular and Templar bodies; the larger of the two rooms being used by the Grand Commandery, and Commanderies Nos. 1, 2, and 4, K. T., and the smaller by the Grand Chapter of R. A. M., and R. A. Chapters Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7; Washington Council, No. 1, and Adoniram Council, No. 2, Royal and Select Masters, and Convention of High Priests. Both rooms are handsomely furnished, the tone of the decorations in each being red and the details appropriate and elaborate. In addition to the various supplementary rooms on the floor below an Armory, a Prelate's Chamber and other apartments necessary to the proper rendition of the several Capitular degrees and Templar orders are provided and properly equipped by the bodies interested.

The fifth and last floor is occupied largely by an auditorium, which with its gallery is capable of seating 800. A large stage is the special feature of this room. Aside from the necessary additional rooms, four dressing rooms are conveniently placed, while upon the mezzanine floor on the gallery level, a commodious room adapted to use as a lounging room, together with other rooms suitable for any purpose, provide the possibility of most convenient and luxurious arrangement. At the time this history goes to press this entire floor is occupied under lease by the Law Department of the George Washington University.

The building throughout is fitted with a system of forced





**MASONIC TEMPLE, NORTHWEST CORNER NINTH AND F STREETS, N. W.**

Home of the Grand Lodge and a majority of the subordinate Lodges from 1870 to 1908.





ventilation, is equipped with the most modern assemblage of appliances for electric lighting, and is adequately heated by steam.

With the completion, dedication, and occupancy of the Temple by the Craft, the question of the advisability of placing the title to the property in the Grand Lodge received early consideration by the Board of Managers of the Masonic Temple Association, and at a meeting of said Board, held November 28, 1908, in a spirit of greatest fraternity and having the welfare of Masonry at heart, and their work having been done only for the benefit and good of the Craft, the Managers by unanimous vote adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The erection of the new Masonic Temple has been completed, and as it seems to be the prevailing opinion among the Fraternity of this jurisdiction that the title as well as the control of the property should be vested in the Grand Lodge, therefore,

*Be it resolved*, That the Masonic Temple Association requests the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia to appoint a committee of five to meet with a similar committee from the Masonic Temple Association for the purpose of conferring as to the advisability and the best means to adopt in order that the title and control of the property may become vested in the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia.

Grand Master A. B. Coolidge presented said resolution to the Grand Lodge at the annual communication, held December 16, 1908, and it was unanimously adopted. Grand Master Coolidge appointed a committee on behalf of the Grand Lodge, consisting of M. W. Bros. Lurtin R. Ginn and Walter A. Brown, and W. Bros. Albert F. Fox, William F. Gude, and Isaac Birch. The committee appointed on behalf of the Masonic Temple Association consisted of M. W. Bros. James A. Sample, William G. Henderson, and James A. Wetmore and W. Bros. Samuel R. Bond and Thomas P. Morgan.

The joint committee gave earnest consideration to the question of the transfer of ownership and control of the Temple to the Grand Lodge and at a special communication of the Grand Lodge, held November 20, 1909, the committee on the part of the Grand Lodge made an exhaustive report of the

financial condition and operation of the Temple Association, past and present, setting out fully certified exhibits furnished the committee by the President, Secretary, and Chairman of the Board of Audit of the Association. This report will be found in the Grand Lodge Proceedings for 1909. The committee, after a full discussion in its report of its reasons therefor, made the following recommendations which were unanimously adopted with the greatest enthusiasm by the Grand Lodge:

1. That the Grand Lodge accept the management of the business affairs of the new Masonic Temple, and thereby its practical ownership, provided that there shall be donated to it for such purpose at least ninety per cent of the entire stock held and owned by individuals and organizations, such donation to be absolute and unconditional, and provided that the act of incorporation of the Masonic Temple Association shall be so amended as to permit such management and practical ownership.

2. That conditioned upon the performance of recommendation numbered one by the Masonic Temple Association, the Grand Lodge levy a pro rata assessment according to membership upon the several constituent lodges of the jurisdiction, under the authority contained in section nineteen of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge, of one dollar per capita per annum pro rated according to membership on September thirtieth of each year, the first assessment to be levied and payable upon the returns of the constituent lodges for the Masonic year ending September thirtieth, nineteen hundred and ten.

3. That the Masonic Temple Association be required, for the purpose of making the aforesaid change, to secure the donation and transfer to the Grand Lodge of the requisite amount of stock, and to obtain the necessary legislation in the premises.

It is but just to the committee to say here that because of the completeness and thoroughness of the report not a single change was suggested in either the report or the recommendations.

After said communication the joint committee of the Grand Lodge and the Temple Association continued its labors, and at the communication of the Grand Lodge, held May 11, 1910, the committee on the part of the Grand Lodge reported that "Through the noble and unselfish generosity of the several constituent lodges of symbolic Masonry, the Grand and con-

stituent Chapters of Royal Arch Masonry, the Grand and constituent Commanderies of Knights Templar Masonry, Washington Council, No. 1, Royal and Select Masters, the several bodies located here of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, Almas Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, Chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star, the Masonic and Eastern Star Home, and a large number of the individual members of the Fraternity, there is now in the hands of the Trustees of the Grand Lodge, donated and assigned to it unconditionally, more than ninety per cent. of the stock outstanding of the Masonic Temple Association."

The committee further reported that the following legislation had been obtained:

(Public—No. 90.)

(S. 3889.)

An Act to Amend an Act to Incorporate the Masonic Temple Association of the District of Columbia.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Act entitled "An Act to incorporate the Masonic Temple Association of the District of Columbia," approved the fifteenth day of April, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, be, and the same hereby is, amended by adding to and as a part of section three of the said Act the following:*

At the annual election of the board of managers and at all other stockholders' meetings of the said Masonic Temple Association, each body owning capital stock of the said corporation shall be entitled to one vote for each share of stock held by it.

Approved, March 23, 1910.

The committee suggested certain changes in the Grand Lodge constitution necessary to accomplish Grand Lodge ownership, control, and management of the business affairs of the Temple thro a board of managers elected by it. Among the changes suggested was one providing for a standing committee of the Grand Lodge to be known as the Committee on Masonic Temple, which should be a special board of trustees to hold in trust the shares of stock of the Masonic Temple Association owned by the Grand Lodge, and to represent the

Grand Lodge and be its proxies and vote its stock at all stockholder's meetings of the Temple Association.

Another suggestion was that the Temple Association so amend its by-laws as to provide for a board of managers consisting of seven members instead of some forty-odd members as theretofore.

The amendments to the Grand Constitution suggested by the committee were unanimously adopted at a communication of the Grand Lodge, held September 24, 1910.

Grand Master Ober named Bros. Lurtin R. Ginn, Walter A. Brown, John H. Small, Jr., Albert F. Fox, and William G. Henderson, first as the special Committee on Masonic Temple, authorized at the May, 1910, communication and then as the standing Committee on Masonic Temple, authorized by the amendment adopted at the September, 1910, communication.

At a stockholders' meeting of the Temple Association, held October 17, 1910, adjourned from October 1, 1910, the following named brethren were elected a board of managers to serve until the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Association in January, 1911: Bros. James A. Sample, Augustus B. Coolidge, Thomas C. Noyes, George E. Fleming, Charles E. Howe, E. C. Graham, and Charles S. Hillyer. On October 24th the Board organized by the election of Augustus B. Coolidge as President; Thomas C. Noyes, Vice-President, and James A. Sample as Treasurer, with the following, not members of the Board: F. R. Underwood, Secretary, and H. K. Simpson, James B. Lambie, and Lafayette Leaman, Auditing Committee.

Thus, as was intended from the beginning, the practical ownership, control, and management of the Temple passed to the Grand Lodge, where of right they should be. None of the brethren worked more earnestly and zealously to this end than the little band of officers and members of the Temple Association, who labored so loyally and so unselfishly from the commencement of the Temple movement in 1898 to the completion of the building in 1908, and thereafter until the Temple actually passed to the control of the Grand Lodge.

## CHAPTER XV.

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### THE LODGES IN DETAIL.

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BRIEF HISTORY OF EACH BLUE LODGE, LIVING OR EXTINCT,  
UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE GRAND LODGE  
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

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THE FOLLOWING OUTLINE SKETCHES are designed simply to cover those events in the history of each lodge which bear broadly upon the general subject of Symbolic Masonry in this jurisdiction, the less important happenings, of special interest to only a limited number, being left to the Historians of the various lodges.

#### FEDERAL LODGE, NO. 1.

In the year 1793 a handful of Master Masons in the Federal City, finding the long journey to Lodge No. 9, of Maryland, located in Georgetown, an irksome task, not only by reason of the distance, but the character of the route, running through woods, across swamps and streams and along foot and bridle paths, and perhaps, also, being influenced by a desire to take a more prominent part in the approaching cornerstone laying of the Capitol Building, asked and obtained a dispensation from No. 9, Georgetown, according to the custom of the time, to hold a lodge in the City of Washington.

Foremost in this movement was the original architect of the



Executive Mansion and Capitol, James Hoban, an Irishman, and, what was not unusual in those days, at once an active Mason and a devout Romanist.

A room in the dwelling of one of the members, on New Jersey Avenue, just south of the Capitol, was fitted up for use, and in the summer of the year mentioned the lodge came into existence.

At a meeting of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, held September 12, 1793, the following petition, bearing date September 6, 1793, was received, and is deemed of sufficient historical interest to warrant reproduction in full:

*To the Right Worshipfull the Grand Lodge of Maryland:*

The petition of James Hoban, C. Worthy Stephenson, and Andrew Eastave respectfully sheweth—

That your petitioners, residents of the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia, in the State of Maryland, and were very desirous of labouring in the avocation of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masonry, and therefore petitioned your Lodge, No. 9, for a Dispensation for that purpose, which Dispensation they, with all the charity and brotherly love to promote the Craft, have granted, and is attendant herewith. But your petitioners, finding in the city of Washington a number of Free Masons and many other worthy men, now Cowans, that are desirous to be initiated into our ancient myteries and congregate into a Lawful Lodge—

Your petitioners have therefore thought proper to pray your Ancient, Honorable, and Respectfull Body to grant them a charter, investing them as usual with full power to work in all the various Mystical Degrees of Ancient York Masonry; also to enter, pass, raise, and exalt in our Royal Art such as are worthy, under the title of the Federal Lodge, No. 15, in the city of Washington; you appointing until the next anniversary of St. John the Evangelist James Hoban, Worshipfull Master; C. Worthy Stephenson, Senior Warden, and Andrew Eastave, Junior Warden.

Your petitioners further beg leave to observe that they have attended herewith a letter of recommendation from your Junior Grand Warden, to whom we are all personally known, with these documents, and a consciousness of their good wishes and intention to work for the good of the Craft, and there being as yet no opportunity in the city of Washington, they therefore do hope that your sublime body will grant the prayer of our petition, and they as in duty bound will revere and acknowledge.

Done in the city of Washington, this 6th day of September, A. L. 5793, A. D. 1793.

JAMES HOBAN,  
C. WORTHY STEPHENSON,  
ANDREW EASTAVE.

The petition was granted, and the charter or "warrant" issued, with the title Federal Lodge, No. 15, Bro. C. Worthy Stephenson having previously paid into the hands of the Grand Secretary £5 for the warrant, and thirty shillings, his perquisite for drawing the same.

Six days later, the lodge not yet having been constituted, the Master Masons to whom the above warrant had issued, made their first public appearance as a separate organization by taking part in the procession and ceremonies incident to the laying of the cornerstone of the Capitol, on which occasion Bro. Stephenson, the then Senior Warden, had the honor of acting as Grand Marshal, and the membership of eight or ten, temporarily increased by visiting brethren to about twenty, made a brave showing "in elegant badges and clothing."

In addition to the Grand Marshal, Federal was represented in the active ceremonies by Bro. Collin Williamson, one of the founders of the Lodge and Master Stonemason of the Capitol, who, in full Masonic regalia, personally superintended the setting of the stone.

The earliest known list of members is found in the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, under date of December 20, 1794, and is as follows:

Clot Worthy Stephenson, W. M.; William Coghlan, S. W.; Bernard Crook, J. W.; James Hoban, Treasurer; James Dougherty, Secretary; David Cumming, S. D.; Redmond Purcell, J. D.; John Dickey and James Houston, Stewards; John Crocker, Andrew Eastave, Collin Williamson, Lewis Williamson, and William Knowles, Master Masons.

The charter of the Lodge, as was not unusual at that time, empowered it to confer the R. A. degree and a Royal Arch encampment, probably the first in the jurisdiction, was formed within the lodge in the first years of its existence.

A temporary home was found on New Jersey Avenue, S. E., but in 1796 a more central location was had in the "Little Hotel," north side of F Street, above Fourteenth.

For several years thereafter the lodge does not seem to

have prospered and by 1798 had reached such a low ebb that the then Worshipful Master, Alex. McCormick, set about a complete reorganization. The thoroughness of this operation may be surmised from the fact that the list of members, sixteen in all, which constituted the roster in 1798, contains no single name which appeared on the list furnished the Grand Lodge of Maryland in 1794.

In the year 1804 the lodge, in connection with Columbia, No. 19, bought a lot of ground on Eleventh Street, northwest, just below Pennsylvania Avenue, and erected a two-story building, known as Union Lodge Room, afterwards used by the so-called Freemasons of African Descent, until pulled down, a few years ago, to make room for the present City Post-office.

At the May communication of the Grand Lodge of Maryland in 1806, the charter of the lodge was suspended, on information that unworthy characters were being made Masons therein; but the suspension only lasted for six months, at the expiration of which time the Grand Lodge, having discovered the erroneous character of its information, made the *amende honorable*, restored the charter, and bore the expense of the appeal made by the lodge.

In 1807, the day of meeting, which had been Sunday, was changed to the first Monday in each month.

In the movement looking to the formation of a local Grand Lodge, Federal took a prominent part, the first convention called for that purpose being presided over by Bro. Alex. McCormick, and having as its Secretary Bro. Charles Glover, both members of the lodge.

Upon the formation of the Grand body, the title of the lodge naturally became Federal, No. 1, both by reason of seniority and the active prominence of its membership.

In 1811, internal dissensions led to the withdrawal of eight members, who obtained a charter as Lebanon Lodge, No. 7.

In 1821, the membership had increased to twenty-nine, a reasonably prosperous growth under the then conditions.



ELDRED G. DAVIS,  
GRAND MASTER, 1877-1878; GRAND COMMANDER, 1898.



In the Spring of 1831, the lodge again moved, this time occupying the lodge room in the recently erected Central Masonic Hall, Four-and-a-half (John Marshall Place) and D Streets, Northwest.

The anti-Masonic period, in the thirties, was a troublous time for the lodge, and by October, 1834, so many members had dropped out that a motion was carried to surrender the charter, but the resolution was not presented to the Grand Lodge at the time, being withheld by the Grand Master of that year, Clement T. Coote, a Past Master of Federal, in order, it is supposed, that he might have the semblance of a lodge behind him. On November 1, 1836, however, an immediate surrender was ordered and carried into effect. One year later the charter was restored, at the request of twelve brethren, and entered upon a period of reverses and struggles which lasted for a decade, the first and one of the most serious troubles being the loss in 1843, of the funds invested in Central Masonic Hall.

A temporary home was found at the northwest corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Twelfth Street, N. W., where it held together for two years, when, again discouraged, on June 3, 1848, a motion was carried to return the charter. While this was not actually carried into effect, yet no lodge opened for more than a year.

In July, 1846, the lodge again met, and voted to revoke the resolution of surrender and to remove to the Medical College Building, northeast corner of Tenth and E Streets, Northwest.

An era of comparative prosperity now set in, and in 1848 the roster contained nearly fifty names.

Besides Lebanon Lodge, No. 7, Federal, in 1849, recommended the petition of California Lodge, No. 13; in 1852, that of Centennial, No. 14, and in 1853 stood sponsor for B. B. French, No. 15.

The wanderings of the lodge were not yet over, and in 1854 a change was made to the Masonic Hall on the southwest corner of Ninth and D Streets, Northwest, where it



remained until the completion of the Temple at Ninth and F Streets, Northwest, in 1870, when it took joint possession of the room which for nearly forty years remained its home, the final move being to its present quarters in the new Temple.

From the close of the Civil War, when the membership amounted to about 200, the growth of the lodge has been steady, and the return for the year 1910 shows a list of 395 Master Masons in good standing.

In all the public functions in which the local Craft has taken part Federal Lodge has been prominent, among the more notable, in addition to the cornerstone laying of the Capitol building, being the cornerstone laying of the Washington Monument, in 1848; the cornerstone laying of the Capitol extension, in 1851; the dedication of the Washington Monument, in 1885; and the exercises commemorative of the centennial of the death and Masonic burial of Gen. Washington, in 1899.

The centennial celebration of the birthday of the lodge was held on the evenings of September 11 and 12, 1893, and was marked by a most excellent literary and musical program, in the Music Hall of the Temple on the first night, to which were invited the members, their ladies and visitors, and concluded on the second by an elaborate banquet at the Ebbitt House, Fourteenth and F Streets.

In the new Temple project, initiated in the closing years of the last century, the lodge has been prominent and active, doing excellent service at both of the great Fairs and the May Festival, held at intervals for the furtherance of that object.

The lodge is fortunate in having become the beneficiary, in 1899, of the sum of \$20,000 by the will of the late Anthony Buchley, a former member, which bequest is used exclusively as a charity fund.

Federal Lodge has furnished five Grand Masters directly, viz: Alex. McCormick, 1812-13; Samuel Burch, 1825; Clement T. Coote, 1834; Robert B. Donaldson, 1869-70; and Walter A. Brown, 1906; and, indirectly, Daniel Kurtz, of

No. 5, in 1818, and William Hewitt, of No. 7, in 1820, both originally members of No. 1.

The present list of Past Masters follows:

Goff A. Hall, 60-61; John D. Bartlett, 68; Geo. D. Patten, 71; Winfield S. Jenks, 78; Isaac Fairbrother, 82-83; Wm. H. Proctor, 84; Wm. W. Lesh, 85; John S. Tomlinson, 87-88; Geo. Z. Colison, 89-90; Wm. R. Sheid, 92; Wm. T. Reed, 93; Wm. S. Knox, 94; S. Edwin Tomlinson, 95; Joannis J. Faber, 96\*; Hosmer M. Johnson, 96\*; Walter A. Brown, 96; Marion Dorian, 97; Richard B. Nixon, 98; Wm. M. Somerville, 99\*; Harry M. McDade, 99; Theodore Friebeus, 00\*; Harry B. Mason, 00; Jas. R. S. Dickens, 02; Alfred J. Arnold, 03; Ralph W. Lee, 05; Jos. R. Fague, 06; Israel D. Yocum, 07\*; Percy G. Smith, 08; Geo. H. Townsend, 09; Abram R. Serven, 10.

Following are the officers for the centennial year:

William A. Harries, W. M.; William T. Richardson, S. W., and William T. Ballard, J. W.

## ALEXANDRIA-BROOKE LODGE, NO. 2.

Popularly known as Brooke Lodge, was the second Masonic Lodge in Alexandria, Va., being granted a dispensation June 1, 1796, by Grand Master Brooke, of Virginia, after whom the lodge was named, and receiving a charter from the Grand Lodge of Virginia, November 29th of the same year, authorizing them "to hold a regular lodge in the town of Alexandria, in the County of Fairfax, designated to be recorded and known by the name of 'Brooke Lodge, No. 47,' " This lodge was one of the original five forming the Grand Lodge of the District in 1811, at which time it surrendered its Virginia charter and received one from the newly-created Grand Lodge, with the title "Alexandria-Brooke Lodge, No. 2."

The first three officers in 1796 were Charles Jones, Master; John Harper, S. W., and Alex. McConnell, J. W., while in

\* Affiliated.

† Honorary.

addition to Bro. Jones the East was filled during the life of the lodge by the following brethren: Dr. John Richards, Amos Alexander, Dr. James Carson, Thomas Towers, Robert Brockett, Jr., Richard Rock, John Kincaid, and James Galt.

The lodge erected a hall on St. Asaph Street, between King and Cameron, in which its meetings were held, in which also Brooke R. A. Chapter, No. 3, held its convocations, and where Evangelical Lodge, No. 8, in 1830, also found a home.

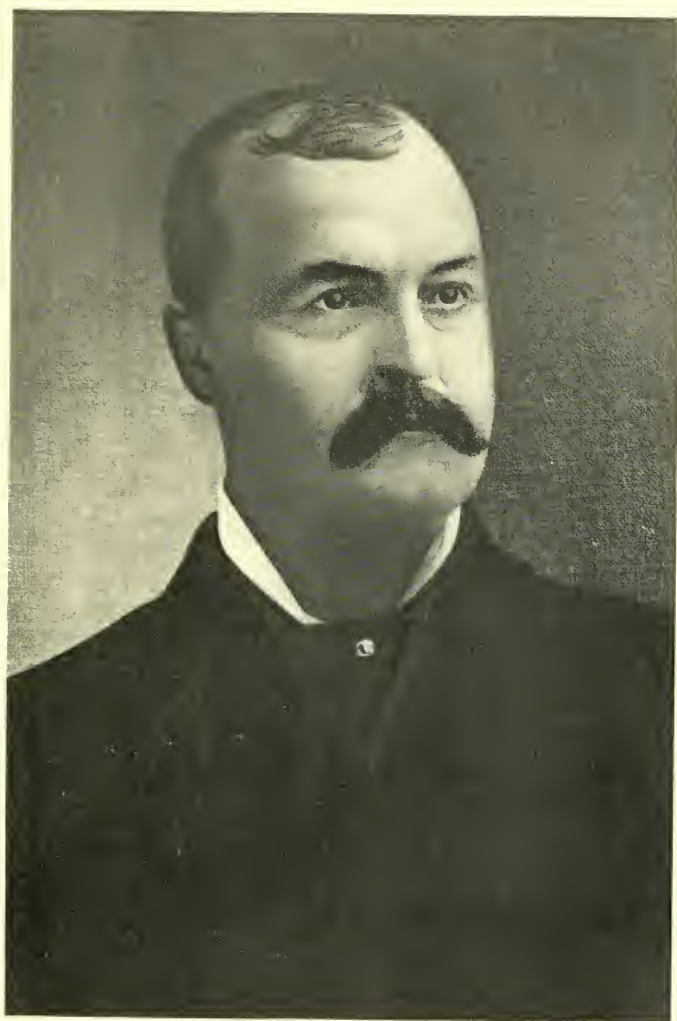
The most amicable relations were sustained between this lodge and Alexandria-Washington Lodge, No. 22, the two frequently coming together in joint celebrations and feasts, and the fact that they belonged to different jurisdictions seems never to have marred the harmony of their intercourse.

In the earlier days Brooke Lodge officiated in the laying of a number of cornerstones, this function, however, being yielded to the Grand Lodge upon its formation.

Six brethren of this lodge attained high place in the Grand Line, Amos Alexander, however, being the only one to fill the station of Grand Master.

While prosperous and healthy for a number of years, the approach of the anti-Masonic wave had a blighting influence, and in 1833, the lodge, not then having been represented in the Grand Lodge for several years and practically having ceased to exist, the Grand Marshal was ordered to proceed to Alexandria and obtain the charter. Failing to accomplish this he was instructed, December 27, 1833, to make further attempt, and also if the value of the tools, implements, and jewels of the lodge was greater than the amount of its debts, to seize such surplus and hold subject to the order of the Grand Lodge; but it was not until August 7, 1838, that the charter, tools, jewels, and implements were surrendered, the ceremony being performed on that date by Dr. James Carson "in a most graceful and affecting manner."

Following is the earliest available roster, that of 1821: Robert Brockett, R. W. M.; Richard Cook, W. S. W.; Amos Alexander, W. J. W. and P. M.; James Carson, Secretary and P. M.; Nicholas Blasdel, Treasurer; John Boyd, S. D.;



HORACE A. WHITNEY,  
GRAND MASTER, 1879.



John C. Tyler, J. D.; Thomas Shields, Tyler; Edward A. May, Steward; James Millan, Robert Brockett, Sr., Robert Henderson, John McLeod, Albert De Valengen, John A. Lengdon, John B. Swan, William Stewart, John B. Hill, John W. Beedle, Samuel F. Goodwin, Wm. Devaughn, Benjamin Dyer, Robert Sands, John Manery, John Rodgers, Joseph T. Hallowell, Paul Stephens, Joseph Caving, and George Talbott, Master Masons, and James Gregsby, F. C., Isaac McLain, Thos. C. Tully, and John Leviatt are shown withdrawn, and Wm. H. Hannon, deceased.

### COLUMBIA LODGE, NO. 3.

This lodge, the second of the name in this section, came into existence by charter from the Grand Lodge of Maryland November 8, 1802, with the lineal number 35. At the time of its formation Masonry was at a rather low ebb, Federal Lodge, the only other lodge existing, having fallen upon a period of depression; but with the injection of new blood into the Fraternity this soon passed, and in a short time the two lodges united in the erection of the first Masonic building in the city, the old Union Lodge Room on Eleventh Street, N. W. Previous to this action the new lodge met in a building known as Lovell's Hotel, on the north side of Pennsylvania Avenue, near Fifteenth Street, N. W., afterward called Washington Hotel, then Tennyson's, and later Stanford's.

The first three officers were: Brothers Charles Jones, W. M.; Patrick Kain, S. W., and John Burns, J. W., while the following composed the earliest available list of members: Brothers Orlando Cooke, Bernard Dolar, Ninian Bell, Isaac Wilson, John Heron, Samuel Russ, John Dobbryn, Francis Pick, Nathaniel Segar, Joseph Johnson, Robert Spider, James Walker, Thomas Herty, James N. Robertson, Thomas Greeves, Andrew Barth, J. C. Shindle, and Nicholas Whelan, the majority of whom are said to have been employés of the Treasury Department.



While the lodge had been working under dispensation for some little time previous to obtaining its charter, the usual record of its operations was not presented to the Grand Lodge with its application, but the omission was not held to be fatal, in view of the strong recommendation of the officers of Federal Lodge.

Columbia Lodge took an active part in the formation of the Grand Lodge of the District in 1811, and its first Master, Brother Charles Jones, was honored by being elected the first Grand Secretary, his death during the same year, however, preventing his serving the full term.

While the first return to the new Grand Lodge shows a marked falling off in membership, only sixteen names being listed, the lodge seems early to have taken a new impetus, and the gain in the next few years, when the limited field is considered, was at least satisfactory, having increased to twenty-seven in 1814, and reached the maximum of its early history in 1828, the roster in that year containing forty-two names.

In 1833, the date of the last existing return to the Grand Lodge of the first period, the list had dwindled to eleven, and as this constitutes the only documentary evidence of the personnel at that time, a subject which became one of importance when, in after years, an attempt was made to revive the lodge, it is here given: Brothers William Duncan, W. M.; M. Hurley, S. W.; A. Van Cobble, J. W.; C. Byrne, S. D.; J. Wade, J. D., and M. Caton, J. Douglass, N. Nicholass, Alex. Clarke, S. Sherwood, Secretary, M. A. Guista, M. M. Hohne, and N. Eaton. As the lodge continued for four years more to eke out an existence, and, indeed, in 1835, through reorganization gave some promise of renewed life, it is possible, but improbable, that this list was materially increased.

November 7, 1837, the Grand Lodge was asked to accept the charter and other property of the lodge, but decided to lay the matter on the table. Subsequently, on May 1, 1838, a special committee having considered the matter, it was resolved to relieve Brother F. L. Grammer, the R. W. Master of Columbia Lodge, upon whose application action was taken,

of the possession of the charter, tools, jewels, and implements of said lodge, as it had ceased to work; and it was further resolved that the property be laid up for the use of any five members of said lodge who might apply for the same in the future. After some little trouble, growing out of an unsatisfied Tyler's bill, the matter was finally settled November 9, 1838, and the charter and other belongings remained in the custody of the Grand Lodge for nearly three decades.

While a numerous signed petition for revival of the charter bearing date of March 3, 1857, was presented to the Grand Master for his dispensation it was refused on constitutional grounds, but being renewed as a simple request for a new lodge, resulted in the formation of Dawson Lodge, No. 16, and it was not until December 28, 1863, that a petition for the return of the charter, signed by Brothers Wm. Cooper, Samuel Sherwood, Thomas Donoho, Jos. Bryan, and James Lawrenson, formerly members of No. 3, was presented to the Grand Lodge. The matter going over, and being revived at the meeting of November, 1864, the Grand Master decided that the petition should have the names of three of the old members of the lodge and seven names in all, whereupon further action was postponed until the December communication of the same year, when the Grand Master was authorized to restore the charter upon the petition of five of the members of the lodge at the time of its demise.

After a number of attempts to satisfy this requirement were made in vain, a list of petitioners appearing to fulfill the conditions was presented to the Grand Master, as follows: James Lawrenson, Charles F. Wood, Samuel Sherwood, M. Caton, Jos. Bryan, Alexander Clark, and M. A. Guista, and this being accepted, the charter was formally returned April 12, 1865.

The lodge at once entered upon a career of uninterrupted prosperity, the first return after the restoration showing twenty-one Master Masons, with five initiates on the way, since which time a healthy growth has been maintained, the return of 1910 showing the handsome total of 290.

Columbia has furnished three Grand Masters to the jurisdiction: John N. Moulder, 1826-7 (and 1830-2, 38, as a member of Hiram, No. 10); Thomas F. Gibbs, 1891, and J. Claude Keiper, the present incumbent, 1911. Besides the first Grand Secretary, Charles Jones, that office was filled from 1836 to 1842 by James Lawrenson, Master of Columbia in 1835, and later an affiliate first of No. 7 and subsequently of No. 1.

The following is the present list of Past Masters:

Josiah M. Vale, 69; Alexander F. McMillan, 79; James L. Falbey, 81; Millard J. Moore, 86; William P. Tullock, 93; William H. Decker, 94\*; Bunyan Olive, 94-95; Robert G. Tinkler, 96; Samuel H. Moore, 97; Herbert Wright, 98; Wm. H. Miller, 99\*; J. Claude Keiper, 99; Luther F. Speer, 00; Raymond Loran, 01\*; Louis J. Silverman, 01; Jas. J. Horrigan, 02; Frank B. Curtis, 03; Jos. Salomon, 04; Walter B. Harrison, 05; Walter H. Oliver, 06; Harry Wilson, 07; Robert E. Burks, 08; Clarence T. McIntyre, 09\*; Jacobus S. Jones, 09; W. Scott Macgill, 10.

Following are the officers for the centennial year:

William S. Herndon, W. M.; James H. Slee, S. W., and Harry M. Bedell, J. W.

#### NAVAL LODGE, NO. 4.

On May 14, 1805, the Grand Lodge of Maryland issued a charter to "sundry brethren working under a dispensation at the Navy Yard at Washington," and from the fact of its location and perhaps, also, to the fact that the War with Tripoli had just ended and the country was ringing with the exploits of Decatur and his fleet, may be ascribed the selection of the name. However that may be, the charter issued in the name of Washington Naval Lodge, No. 41.

This document, which is still in the possession of the lodge, and in a fairly good state of preservation, gives John Davis, of Able, as W. M.; William Smith, as S. W., and John Cummins, as J. W.



NEW MASONIC TEMPLE.

Thirteenth Street and New York Avenue, Northwest.



The first available return, dated May, 1806, shows a membership of forty-six, in addition to the officers quoted above, and is as follows:

James Burges.	Samuel Lowdermilk.
Benjamin King.	Joseph Cassin.
Shadrack Davis.	Robert Rankin.
Holder Spooner.	Stephen Dykes.
Kimble Easley, Sr.	James Kemp.
Kimble Easley, Jr.	George Brown.
Robert Dillon.	Edward Fitzgerald.
Samuel Whann.	John T. Brown.
Anthony F. Shraub.	Elisha Perry.
Charles C. Herford.	Charles D. Brodie.
David Dobbins.	Thomas Smith.
James B. Potts.	Peter B. Pravote.
William Spooner.	Bartholemew Byns.
John D. Henley.	Joseph Tarbell.
Seth Carter.	James McKaraher.
Winlock Clarke.	John N. Cannon.
John C. Love.	Alex. McWilliams.
John Harrison.	George Dixon.
John P. Lovell.	Charles Lacey.
Isaac Davies.	James H. Kearney.
Robert Alexander.	Samuel Long.
Charles W. Goldsborough.	Robert Harrison.
William Hamden.	Philip Alexander.

For the first fifteen years of its existence the lodge met in a small two-story brick dwelling on Seventh Street, Southeast, near M, which is still standing, somewhat modernized.

In the year 1821, the increasing membership necessitating more commodious quarters, a two-story building was erected on the northwest corner of Fifth Street and Virginia Avenue, Southeast, and this edifice possesses the distinction of being one of the earliest erected in the City of Washington for exclusively Masonic use.

The first floor in this latter structure, as in the former, was



used for school purposes, and many East Washington citizens now living received their educational start in life within its walls.

This building, located in what was then the most populous settlement in that part of the city, served its purpose for forty-six years, at the expiration of which time another story was added, an extension erected, and other improvements made. The building never having been dedicated previously, the date of the occupancy of the remodeled home in 1867 was made the occasion of elaborate dedicatory ceremonies, Grand Master R. B. Donaldson, then occupying the Grand East, officiating. The event was made additionally memorable by an appropriate historical address by Past Grand Master B. B. French, a frequent visitor to and warm friend of the lodge.

For nearly thirty years this building continued to be the home of the lodge, and it is well within the memory of the present generation of Masons how it became the mecca for all newly-made brethren in the District, and how the fame of its slightly varying rendition of the third degree crowded its comparatively restricted quarters with visitors from this and other jurisdictions.

The increasing membership ultimately forcing the lodge to seek new quarters, a large lot was purchased, in 1893, at the northwest corner of Fourth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, Southeast, and the erection of the present handsome building at once commenced. This great work was undertaken in a season of financial depression by a comparatively small band of men in moderate circumstances, and the ensuing years made frequent and heavy demands on the private means of the brethren, yet they faltered not, but rose superior to every obstacle, and have now won the assured ownership of their beautiful building dedicated to Masonry and a monument to the devotion of the brethren of the lodge.

On July 24, 1894, the cornerstone was laid with unusual ceremony by Grand Master Henry Merrill, and on June 6, 1895, the building was dedicated in due and ancient form by Grand Master David G. Dixon.

After this last removal the membership rapidly increased from 130 in 1895 to 353 in 1910.

In the Grand Lodge, in the formation of which Naval Lodge, No. 4, as it then became (the "Washington" being dropped), took an active part, the membership has been well represented, four Past Masters having attained the East in that body; Marmaduke Dove, 1839; William M. Ellis, 1844; Yelverton P. Page, 1863; and George C. Ober, 1910. In addition to the above, each of whom served as Deputy Grand Master, the latter station was also occupied by Thomas Howard, W. E. Howard, James Nokes, David McComb, and Robert Clarke. This last brother, whose death occurred in February, 1905, and whose remarkable career is well known to many of the brethren of the jurisdiction, also served in nearly every chair in the Grand line, and was Grand Treasurer from 1847 to 1854.

The oldest affiliated Master Mason in the jurisdiction at the time of his death, which occurred December 20, 1909, was Brother Charles H. Venable, who served as Master of Naval Lodge in 1849, and who, altho bowed by the weight of years, and unable latterly to attend the lodge, yet always took a lively interest in everything pertaining to its welfare.

A fact worthy of special mention in connection with this lodge is that throughout its life, of over a century, the charter has never been surrendered nor suspended, nor has it ever remotely approached a condition that would warrant such a step.

The centennial anniversary of the granting of its charter was elaborately observed in a series of events commencing May 14, 1905, Sunday, when the lodge attended Divine service in a body, and continuing through largely attended gatherings held Monday, May 15, for the Grand Lodge and distinguished Masons; Tuesday, May 16, for the members, their ladies and friends, and closing Thursday, May 18, with a banquet for the members solely, all of which functions were pitched upon an unusually high plane, and fittingly closed the

first century of one of the most progressive lodges in this or any other jurisdiction.

The present list of Past Masters follows:

Edward B. Bury, 70-71; William H. Hoeke, 75-76; Joseph H. Hartley, 79; Charles Shelse, 80-82; Chas. A. Stockett, 86-87; Arthur J. Symonds, 88-89; Chas. F. Warren, 90; Philip B. Otterback, 91-92; Jas. Tindall, 92\*; Millard T. Dixon, 94-95; Kenton N. Harper, 96-97; Harry P. Cook, 98; W. T. Hebbard, 99\*; Geo. C. Ober, 99; Silas A. Manuel, 00; Jos. E. Hodgson, 01; David S. Walton, 02, George W. Baird, 02†; Levi C. Blake, 04; Andrew J. White, 05; John H. Wolf, 06; John Scrivener, 07; Jules A. Rodier, 08; John J. King, 09; J. Frank Campbell, 10.

Following are the officers for the centennial year:

William J. Johnson, W. M.; George A. Berry, S. W., and Frank H. Kramer, J. W.

### POTOMAC LODGE, NO. 5.

This lodge, if the contention is admitted that the repeated revival of an organization after periods of coma by practically the same individuals establishes a claim to continuous existence, has the distinction of having had four dates of warrant, three names, and four numbers.

Constituting, as it did for a number of years, nearly all of organized Masonry in this section, its history is set out in detail in the main body of this work, and will therefore be but briefly treated here.

Passing over the matter of the existence of an old lodge in Georgetown, called "St. Andrew's Lodge," fully dealt with in Chapter I, we find that the Grand Lodge of Maryland, at a meeting held April 21, 1789, granted a charter for a lodge to be held in Georgetown, on Potomac River, with Charles Fierier as W. M., and Alexander Grier as S. W. This lodge was the second one chartered by the Grand Lodge of Maryland, and was officially known as "Lodge No. 9," the desig-

nation "Potomac" appearing seventeen years later in connection with the third lodge constituted in Georgetown. It is interesting to note that this charter was granted nine days before the inauguration of Gen. Washington as President of the United States.

Lodge No. 9, as has elsewhere been stated, took part in the ceremony of laying the cornerstone of the Capitol Building September 18, 1793, and to its Master at that date, Valentine Reintzel (afterwards first Grand Master of the District of Columbia), was given by President Washington the gavel then used by him, which has been cherished ever since as a precious relic not only by this lodge, which guards it jealously, but by the entire jurisdiction.

In January, 1792, after the custom of the time, the lodge granted a dispensation to certain of its members to open a lodge at Port Tobacco, Md., to be known as St. Columbia, No. 11, and, probably owing to the drain thus caused on the local roster, Lodge No. 9 ceased to exist in the early part of 1794.

October 22, 1795, a quaint petition, elsewhere quoted, was received by the Grand Lodge of Maryland, praying for a charter to issue to certain brethren to form a lodge in Georgetown, D. C., signed by the following brethren: Anthony Reintzel, John Suter, Jr., George Vaughn, John Reintzel, Thos. Beatty, Jr., Valentine Baganrieff, Charles Minor, James Melvin, Wm. Casey, James Thompson, and Wm. Carey. Of these Thos. Beatty, Jr., James Thompson, and Anthony Reintzel had been members of Lodge No. 9. The petition being recommended by Federal, No. 15, the warrant was granted, with the title Columbia, No. 19, and went into commission with the following officers: James Melvin, W. M.; James Thompson, S. W.; John Suter, J. W.; John Reintzel, Secretary; Anthony Reintzel, Treasurer.

This lodge lived a little more than a year, and during that period conferred the degrees upon four candidates. The complete minutes of the lodge are in the possession of Potomac, and are extensively quoted in other pages, as valuable

historical material. About the last act of the body was the election of officers for 1797.

From the opening of the latter year until November 10, 1806, over nine years, Georgetown remained without a Masonic organization, but upon the latter date the Grand Lodge of Maryland granted a charter to certain brethren in Georgetown to form a lodge to be known as Potomac Lodge, No. 43. This charter was not obtained without difficulty, an application for the same in the preceding May having met with a decided rebuff, the committee of the Grand Lodge, to whom was referred said application, reporting adversely, and saying, among other things, that "the present lodges of the District [are] not too much filled to carry on their work."

The second petition, however, resulting as above, the new lodge at once went actively to work, and has continued without break to the present day.

The first officers were: Thomas Pryse, W. M.; Daniel Kurtz, S. W., and John Hollingshead, J. W., while a roster of the earlier members contains the following names, some of which had been identified with one or both of the preceding lodges: John Reintzel, James Melvin, Robert Craig, Thomas Beatty, Jr., Henry Pyfer, George Lambright, Charles Stone, A. L. Jonchever, Lewis Clephinia, James Green, William Colder, Valentine Reintzel, William Ward, William Calder, Alex. L. Jancherz, William Knowles, and James Deaver.

Potomac Lodge took an active part in the formation of the Grand Lodge of the District in 1811, and at that time received its present number, 5; but there is reason to believe that there was reluctance on the part of some of the members to breaking away from the jurisdiction of Maryland, indications of dissatisfaction cropping out from time to time, and finally culminating in the years 1843, 1844, and 1845 in serious efforts to separate from the District Grand Lodge and to enter the jurisdiction either of Maryland or Virginia, but from that time to date the lodge has been one of our most prosperous and loyal lodges. Its roster in 1910 shows 253 names.

In common with nearly all of the lodges during the anti-



Masonic excitement, a low ebb was reached in 1836-7, but in 1838 a reorganization was effected by fourteen of the faithful ones, and the lodge took a new lease of life.

The various meeting places of the lodge are touched upon in another chapter, and it is sufficient to say here that the present commodious building was completed and occupied in 1859, and still remains a model structure for the purpose for which erected.

Potomac Lodge has in possession a number of valuable Masonic relics, the most ancient, besides the "St. Andrew's Bible," being a fairly well-preserved certificate of membership made out to Brother Robert Brown, and dated January 19, A. L. 5793, which, perhaps, antedates any other authentic Masonic document in the District.

The lodge has given to the jurisdiction five Grand Masters: Valentine Reintzel, 1811; Daniel Kurtz, 1818-9; John Mason, Jr., 1842; Thos. P. Chiffelle, 1886, and Malcolm Seaton, 1902, which list will, in all probability, be added to in the near future by the elevation of the present Grand Standard Bearer. Lemuel Towers, Jr.

The present list of Past Masters is as follows: J. Holdsworth Gordon, 74, 80; Walter T. Wheatley, 75; Isaac Birch, 82-83; John B. Thomas, 84-86; Jas. S. Hays, 89; Geo. J. Fritch, 91-92; Chas. W. Cornwell, 93; Thos. H. Brinkman, 94; Wm. S. Waddey, 95; Edgar J. Hulse, 96; Jas. S. Raeburn, 98-99; John A. Lacy, 00\*; Frederick W. Daw, 00; Alpheus W. Hudson, 01; Stanley Billheimer, 02; Benj. B. Hunt, 04; Chas. T. Lindsey, 05; Chas. H. Williams, 06; Lem. Towers, Jr., 07; Richard S. Clifton, 08; Irvin B. Moulton, 09; Wm. Clyde Hunt, 10.

Following are the officers for the centennial year:

Thomas G. King, W. M.; Abram S. McCoy, S. W., and Frederick C. Handy, J. W.



## UNION LODGE, NO. 6.

This lodge was the first chartered by the Grand Lodge of the District, a petition being presented and a warrant ordered to issue July 9, 1811. The document was directed to Samuel B. Ellis, Master; William Ward, S. W., and William Wood, J. W., while the earliest available roster, that of 1814, gives the following list of members: Thomas C. Monroe, W. M.; George Adams, S. W.; John Waters, J. W.; Robert Brown, Treas.; John McKim, Sec.; Jonathan Criddle, S. D.; John Woodberry, J. D.; John Mementree, Stephen Perrey, Thomas Haliday, William Wood, Fielder Parker, John W. Brashears, William H. Briscoe, Joseph Ward, Walter Cox, James Kelley, James Walker, Samuel Bacon, Isaac Jones, William Bishop, Frederick Cana, Henry B. Joy, Samuel B. Ellis, William Smith, Henry Kurtz, Richard Robinson, Robert Armstead, Benjamin Dyer, William Grille, and James Watson. To the list of early members may also be added the name of Marmaduke Dove, afterward Grand Master of the District.

Union Lodge was the offspring of Naval, No. 4, and drew its material from the same field. The rather unusual relationship which long existed between these two lodges is shown by the following extract from "First Century of Naval Lodge, No. 4:"

"Union Lodge for many years occupied the Naval Lodge room as a tenant, and the connection between them at times became so intimate that frequently the two lodges met in joint session, the different offices being filled temporarily by selections from both staffs. This idealic condition, it might be presumed, would lead naturally and quickly to a consolidation, and, indeed, efforts were made at different times to bring about this result, but in every instance failed. Overtures looking to a partnership in the building enterprise, proposed by Naval Lodge in the first decade of its existence, were not well received, and Union Lodge remained a paying tenant throughout its somewhat stormy life. In connection with this building enterprise it is worthy of note that after the completion of the



JOSEPH C. MCCOY,  
GRAND MASTER, 1880; GRAND HIGH PRIEST, 1878.



work referred to, when a proposition was submitted to Union Lodge to become a paying tenant, said Lodge, through a committee, replied expressing surprise at the proposition and taking the remarkable ground that as the building was erected by subscription expressly for the purposes of Masonry, in their opinion all Masons had an equal right to the privilege of sitting in it. They offered, however, to meet half the interest on the deferred payments and half of the other expenses attending it until such time as they had paid as much as Naval Lodge, when they should be considered half owners. By what system of mathematical jugglery they expected ever to catch up with Naval Lodge on this basis it is difficult to conceive. Harmonious relations were re-established, and No. 6 remained always a tenant."

Previous to the final surrender of the charter troublous times were experienced, and more than once the lodge tottered on the brink of dissolution. In fact, the Grand Lodge, at the communication of November 2, 1824, declared No. 6 extinct, and ordered the surrender of the constitution, jewels, furniture, &c. This action, however, was reconsidered at the following meeting in December of the same year.

Ten years later, in December, 1834, the delinquencies of the lodge again came before the Grand Lodge, and an injunction was issued by that body staying all further business transactions of the lodge. In May of the following year an offer to surrender the charter was made, but action was deferred on the proposition until November, 1835, when the lodge was finally declared extinct.

Union Lodge was indirectly represented in the Grand East in the person of Marmaduke Dove, originally Master of No. 6, later of Naval, No. 4, and Grand Master in 1839, having previously held the preceding subordinate offices in the Grand Lodge.

Thomas Haliday, the second Master of the Lodge, served as S. G. Warden in 1815, and as G. Treas. 1812-14 and 1816-20; John Pic as J. G. Warden 1823-4, and William Lambert as G. Secretary 1823-9.

## LEBANON LODGE, NO. 7.

At the regular meeting of Federal Lodge, No. 1, October 7, 1811, a communication was received from nine members thereof, setting forth their intention of petitioning the Grand Lodge for a charter to form another lodge, and praying for a recommendation. The instrument, while somewhat lengthy, is couched in conventional terms for the most part, but has added to the regular form the following rather fulsome conclusion, an evident afterthought, if the fact that it is penned in a different hand may warrant that assumption:

In case of such an event [the granting of a charter] the warmest sensibility of our feelings will be excited by the reflection that altho separated as members of No. 1 we shall still be united as brothers working under the same parent lodge, and being governed by the same principles and views we will be stimulated by a spirit of emulation in the works that may tend most to the honor, respectability, and advancement of the principles of the Craft. Your advice and instruction we will freely request when circumstances may render it necessary. And we hope you will accept the assurance of our earnest solicitude for the continuance of the prosperity that has heretofore attended No. 1, and be assured of the respect and attachment of your friends and brothers.

No spirit of opposition could possibly live after the reception of this document, and accordingly, on the same evening, the prayer was granted unanimously, and the recommendation prepared, which, being presented, together with a petition for charter, to the Grand Lodge on the following evening, October 8, 1811, was favorably considered, and a charter ordered to issue with the name Lebanon Lodge, No. 7, the first officers named being Charles Glover, Master; James Hewitt (Grand Secretary at the time), S. W., and John Weightman, J. W.

The charter list contained the following eight names: Charles Glover, James Hewitt, John Weightman, Wm. Hewitt, John Peltz, Thos. B. Briscoe, Pontius D. Stelle, and Andrew T. McCormick.

The first return, January 14, 1812, shows an increase of membership to thirteen, and the growth until 1821 was comparatively rapid, the list in that year containing thirty-nine

names and leading all the other local lodges. For the succeeding twenty years the number of members varied but little, but as the anti-Masonic period was entered the lodge, in common with the rest, had somewhat of a struggle, the return of 1843 showing an aggregate of eleven members.

The roster of 1814, showing the personnel after two years, follows: John Davidson, W. M.; Wm. Hewitt, S. W.; Ezekiel Macdaniel, J. W.; Washington Boyd, Treas.; James Hewitt, Sec.; Henry Whetcroft, S. D.; and B. H. Tomlinson, J. D.; Charles Glover, Pontius D. Stelle, John Davis, R. C. Weightman, John Weightman, John Peltz, Samuel Hoit, Noah Fletcher, Zach. Walker, David Ott, Ben. M. Belt, James H. Blake, James M. Varnum, Nath. H. Heath, Isaac K. Hanson, Eben McDonald, Edw. Stephens, Wm. Lambert, John E. Green, and Charles Lord, with And. T. McCormick as an honorary member.

With the general revival in the middle of the last century, this lodge soon forged to the front, and has for a number of years ranked as one of the large lodges of the District, the membership at the date of this publication reaching the handsome total of 452.

As an evidence of the fraternal spirit which has always marked this lodge it may be stated that the handsome marble altar now in use by Naval Lodge, No. 4, was formerly the property of Lebanon, and the handiwork of one of its members, was used by the latter body and the other Masonic lodges meeting in Central Masonic Hall, Ninth and D Streets, N. W., and was, upon their removal to the new Temple at Ninth and F Streets, presented by Lebanon to Naval, June 4, 1870.

No sketch of Lebanon Lodge, however brief, would be complete without adverting to the remarkable Masonic career of its first initiate, Roger C. Weightman, who was a continuous member thereof for over sixty-four years, and who was one of only three Masons in this jurisdiction who have been elected to the office of Grand Master without previous service in a subordinate East.



The first century of this progressive lodge being completed October 8, 1911, elaborate preparations are making to fittingly celebrate that event, in anticipation of which Bro. T. Elwood Davis and W. Bro. Walter T. Paine are engaged in preparing an exhaustive history of the lodge that will prove a valuable addition to local Masonic literature.

Besides R. W. Brother Weightman, who served as Grand Master in 1833, this lodge has furnished seven other Grand Masters, as follows: John Davidson, 1815-16; Wm. Hewitt, 1820-21; W. W. Seaton, 1822-24; Robert Keyworth, 1840-41, 43; Eldred G. Davis, 1877-78; David G. Dixon, 1895, and Henry K. Simpson, 1909, each, with the exception of R. C. Weightman and W. W. Seaton, having filled one or more of the subordinate positions.

In addition to the above Joel Downer served as Dep. G. M., 1844; Andrew Glass, J. G. W., 1866, and S. G. W., 1877; Jeremiah Elkins, J. G. W., 1826; James Hewitt, G. Sec., 1811-13; William Lambert (of First Meridian fame), G. Sec., 1823-29; Louis Smith, G. Sec., 1831; James Lawrenson, G. Sec., 1836-42 (originally of No. 3 and later of No. 1); Robert Coltman, G. Treas., 1846-48, and C. C. Duncanson, 1879-1901.

Present list of Past Masters: Chas. C. Duncanson, 77; John Boyle, 85\*; Thos. H. Young, 85; Wm. J. Acker, 86; Henry K. Simpson, 87; Edwin I. Nottingham, 88; Theo. G. DeMoll, 89; Eugene J. Bernhard, 90-91; Lewes D. Wilson, 93; Walter W. Ludlow, 94; Summerfield G. Nottingham, 95; John H. Tatspaugh, 98; John E. Walsh, 99; Daniel W. Skellenger, 00; Wm. C. Fowler, 01; Alfred J. Fairall, 02\*; Arthur H. Smith, 02; J. Gordon Jones, 03; Wm. F. Bowen, 04; Daniel W. Beach, Jr., 05; Chas. S. Heinline, 06; Chas. Walsh, 07; Francis I. Beach, 08; Walter T. Paine, 09; Charles Kattelman, Jr., 10.

Officers for the centennial year:

Blair McKenzie, W. M.; Thomas S. Sergeant, S. W., and Charles S. Shreve, Jr., J. W.



*W. H. Garner*

GRAND MASTER, 1881-1882; GRAND SECRETARY, 1867-1871; GRAND  
HIGH PRIEST, 1874-1875; GRAND SECRETARY, R. A. M., 1867-1871;  
GENERAL GRAND HIGH PRIEST, 1886.



## EVANGELICAL LODGE, NO. 8,

Of Alexandria, D. C. [Va.], came into existence under dispensation of the then Grand Master, W. W. Seaton, April 23, 1824, and at the next succeeding meeting of the Grand Lodge, May 4, a petition regularly recommended by Brooke Lodge, No. 2, being presented, praying for a warrant of constitution, a charter was issued, in which Humphrey Peake was appointed Master; Benjamin G. Thornton, S. W., and Isaac Kell, J. W., of a lodge to be holden in the town of Alexandria, D. C., to be known and designated as "Evangelical Lodge, No. 8."

This was the third lodge chartered by Virginia and the District of Columbia in Alexandria, and all flourished for a number of years.

For a long period the new lodge met in the hall belonging to Brooke Lodge, No. 2, but for the last few years of its existence held its meetings in the room of Alexandria-Washington Lodge, No. 22, under the jurisdiction of Virginia, thus presenting the unique spectacle of two lodges owing allegiance to different Grand Lodges working together in the same territory in the greatest harmony. Jurisdictional lines, however, were not so tightly drawn then as now.

Coming into existence on the eve of the period of Masonic depression, the life of the lodge was comparatively short, and little data in relation to it is of available record.

The Grand Lodge, following its nomadic habit of the period, occasionally met in the hall of this lodge, and it is of record that on at least one of these occasions, altho the constitutional hour of meeting was 4 P. M., the boat from Washington being delayed (probably by adverse winds), the Grand Lodge was not opened until 7 P. M.

At the meeting of the Grand Lodge, December 27, 1842, there was laid before that body a copy of the proceedings of Evangelical Lodge, of the 23d of the same month, wherein it was decided to surrender the charter; but the Grand Lodge being loath to see so promising a body dissolved, declined to accept the charter and appointed a committee to visit the

lodge and endeavor to effect an adjustment of the difficulties under which they were laboring. The subsequent report of this committee was discouraging, showing that of twenty-seven resident members but one favored retaining the charter. The Grand Lodge, however, being still reluctant to give up hope, on May 2, 1843, appointed another similar committee, but before the latter made any report another formal surrender of the charter was made December 27th of the same year, and was again declined.

Altho on May 7, 1844, elaborate resolutions were passed by the Grand Lodge commendatory of the membership of the lodge and appointing Bro. Isaac Kell, P. Dep. Grand Master for Alexandria, an emissary to endeavor "to call the Craft from repose to labor," and altho Bro. H. N. Steele, of No. 8, was elected Dep. G. Master for Alexandria for the year 1844, the lodge was sleeping the sleep that knows no waking, and the date of the last surrender of the charter, December 27, 1843, may be accepted as the day of its demise.

While no member of this lodge reached the Grand East, the above-mentioned and Bros. Isaac Kell and Levi Hurdle served as Dep. Grand Masters, and the lodge contributed quite a number of incumbents for the positions of Senior and Junior Grand Wardens.

The first return to the Grand Lodge, that of 1824, contains sixteen names, as follows: Humphrey Peake, Benj. G. Thornton, Isaac Kell, James Berkley, John Hoff, James Miller, John Lymburn, Robert T. Degge, Geo. W. Catlett, Isaac Robbins, John Fenerden, James Jack, John T. Wheat, Pharez Throop, Samuel Isaacs, and John F. Andrews, with the additional, and, shall we say, irrelevant information that three of the list were ministers of the Gospel.

### THE NEW JERUSALEM LODGE, NO. 9.

October 14, 1824, Grand Master Seaton granted a dispensation, in compliance with the request of certain petitioners, empowering them to meet as a lodge, and by the power in him vested appointed William Hewitt as the first Master; Henry

Whetcroft as the first S. W.; and Thomas Stanley as the first J. W., and upon the following evening attended a meeting of the new lodge and installed the officers thereof. These facts being laid before the Grand Lodge at its annual communication November 2, 1824, together with the petition for a charter, the matter was referred to a committee, and upon their favorable report, in which they took occasion to say that they had examined the by-laws and proceedings of said lodge and found "them perfectly consonant with the principles of Masonry," a charter was the same evening ordered to issue under the name of "The New Jerusalem Lodge, No. 9."

By the first return of the lodge the date of institution is given as November 2, 1824, the charter date, but there exists no record of any ceremony connected with that event. Said return, which bears date of December 27, 1824, gives the following list of members; William Hewitt, Master; Henry Whetcroft, S. W.; Thomas Stanley, J. W.; William Kerr, Jr., Sec.; Thomas Donaho, Treas.; Gotlieb Long, S. D.; John Robinson, J. D.; and Robert Boyd, an Entered Apprentice.

The next return, that of 1825, shows an increase to sixteen Master Masons with two Entered Apprentices; the next eight years added but eight names, and the anti-Masonic period being now under way, the lodge fell upon troublous times, but with the advent of the '40s came a reawakening and rapid growth, the membership in 1847 reaching the handsome aggregate of sixty names, since which time, with the exception of the usual seasons of depression that come to all bodies, the increase has been steady, and at the present it stands in the front rank of the local lodges with a roster of 515 names.

The lodge has been something of a wanderer during its life, as there is evidence to show that it met originally in Union Lodge Room, Eleventh Street, N. W., in Central, or Freemasons' Hall, D Street and John Marshall Place; the old Circus Building (now Havenner's Bakery), on C Street, near John Marshall Place; (probably) in Odeon Hall, corner Pennsylvania Avenue and John Marshall Place; old Medical College Building, Tenth and E Streets, N. W.; the new Central Ma-



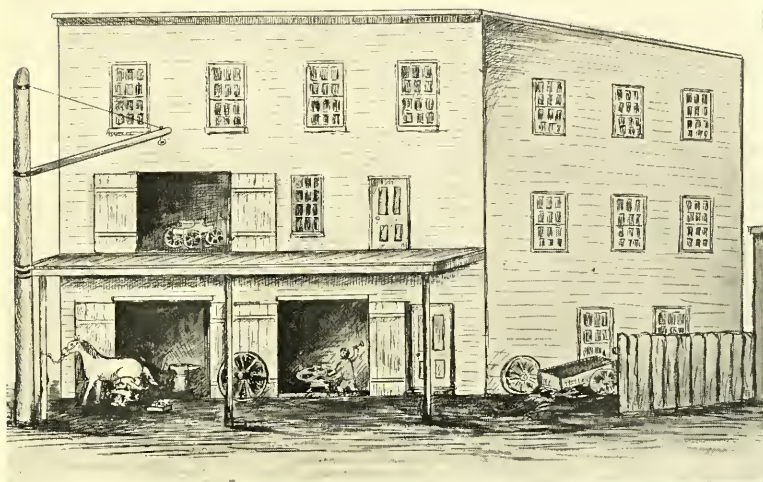
sonic Hall, Ninth and D Streets; Hiram Lodge Room, Nineteenth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.; Masonic Temple, Ninth and F Streets, and the new Temple.

That No. 9 has been an important factor in all that has made for the advancement of the Fraternity locally is evidenced by the fact that it has given to the jurisdiction five Grand Masters: William Hewitt, 1820-21 (then of No. 7), and 1828-29 (as of No. 9); William W. Billing, 1835-37; E. H. Chamberlin, 1883; Harrison Dingman, 1889, and William G. Henderson, all of whom had previously filled one or more of the subordinate offices in the Grand Lodge, while H. B. Robertson served as S. G. W. in 1843 and 1845 and Dep. G. M. in 1846; Joseph H. Jochum, J. G. W., 1875-76, and Dep. G. M., 1877; C. Ashford, S. G. W., 1853; Grafton Powell, J. G. W., 1855, and S. G. W., 1856; F. A. Jackson, S. G. W., 1864; Wm. J. Rawlings, J. G. W., 1839; Robert Coltman, J. G. W., 1844; Wm. Kerr, Jr., G. Sec., 1830-32; Charles L. Coltman, G. Treas., 1835, and John M. St. John, G. Treas., 1840-41.

The present list of surviving Past Masters is as follows: Aug. Lepreux, Sr., 54-55; J. Tyler Powell, 68; Jos. H. Jochum, 69-70; Geo. J. Mueller, 71-72; Edmund F. Lawson, 76; Samuel T. Schofield, 77, 79; Andrew W. Kelley, 78; Wm. G. Henderson, 80; Martin O'Connor, 83; Samuel S. Burdett, 84\*; Harrison Dingman, 84; Geo. W. Nagle, Sr., 88\*; Jas. B. Henderson, 91; Jas. O. Roller, 93; John Henderson, Jr., 94; Thos. A. Chandler, 95; W. W. Trego, 97; Edward Matthews, 99; Howard D. Feast, 00; Chas. C. Coombs, 01; Geo. W. Smith, 03; J. Harry Jochum, Jr., 05; Thos. C. Henderson, 06; Wm. McNeir, 07; Edwin S. Clarkson, 08; John G. Schofield, 09; Warren J. Coffin, 10.

Following are the officers for the centennial year:

W. Ivanhoe Jochum, W. M.; George W. Kennedy, S. W., and Thomas Keely, J. W.



**HARRISON, NEAR MONROE, STREET, ANACOSTIA. UPPER FLOOR USED  
FOR LODGE PURPOSES**

Home of Anacostia Lodge, No. 21, from 1869 to 1880.



**LOCATED ON PRESENT SITE; MOVED BACK WHEN PRESENT TEMPLE  
WAS ERRECTED; LATTER ON LEFT.**

Home of Anacostia Lodge, No. 21, 1880 to 1890.



## HIRAM LODGE, NO. 10.

On December 15, 1827, a petition for a dispensation to form a lodge to be known as "Hiram Lodge, No. 10," signed by twenty-two Master Masons who were recommended by the Masters and Wardens of Lodges Nos. 4, 5, and 6 as "of fair fame, good moral character, and respectable standing in society," was received by Grand Master John N. Moulder, who was pleased to grant the request and permit the assembly of a lodge to be known as above on Tuesday, December 18, 1827, and to also authorize, upon the nomination of the petitioners, Thos. Wilson as the first Master and Thos. Smith and Charles Wilcox as the first S. and J. Wardens, respectively.

Following are the names of the signers of said petition, and constitutes, therefore, the earliest list of members of the lodge: N. P. Washeart, Henry Ashton, Thomas F. Tebbs, Ellis J. Thompson, Levin Belt, John Keith, Thos. Smith, Andrew J. Watson, James C. Houghey, Patrick Leyne, Jno. Burke, Geo. Lamb, Joseph S. Wilson, Charles Little, Jonas Taylor, Thos. Wilson, Levi Washburn, Thomas Miller, Chas. G. Wilcox, Edward Koontz, and John D. Cox.

The Grand Master, accompanied by several other officers of the Grand Lodge, was present at the first meeting of the new lodge, December 18, in its room in the "Eastern Edifice of the Seven Buildings," corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Nineteenth Street, N. W., and installed the officers. In a short time, however, the lodge found quarters in the Town Hall, in the reservation bounded by Pennsylvania Avenue, Twentieth and I Streets, where they remained until 1846.

At the Grand Lodge communication of December 27, of the same year, a petition for a charter or warrant of constitution was received, with practically the same list of signers as appears on the former paper, and was unanimously granted, and thus came into existence, without recorded date of formal institution, the new lodge at a time when the dark clouds of persecution were beginning to gather in the Masonic sky.

In view of this fact, it is understandable why the first decade was a desperate struggle for existence, which finally culminated, in the late '30s, in a state of coma. This, however, lasted only a few years, as is evidenced by the following extract from a report by the then Grand Secretary, James Lawrenson, dated November 2, 1841:

\* \* \* But what will be their [the Grand Lodge] feelings of congratulation when they are informed of the resuscitation and entire reorganization of Hiram Lodge, No. 10, in the First Ward. This Lodge, as is well known, has not worked as a lodge for several years before; but our good brethren, who altho scattered "as sheep without a shepherd," have retained their love for the Institution, and have come forward in union and harmony and re-established themselves as a lodge. They have commenced under the most favorable auspices, and will receive the hearty support of their brethren throughout the District. May they go on and prosper.

The return for 1841 shows eight names, which was increased by 1843 to twenty-eight, and has since, with the exception of the usual and natural periods of stagnation, shown a steady and encouraging growth, the return for the present year listing a total of 366 names.

In June, 1845, the Grand Lodge met in Hiram Lodge room to arrange for funeral honors to Gen. Andrew Jackson, the lodge at the time occupying the old Market House and Town Hall Building, on the triangular reservation bounded by Pennsylvania Avenue, I and Twentieth Streets.

In 1846 a new home was found in what was known as "Smith's Stable," Nineteenth Street, between Pennsylvania Avenue and I Street. During the occupancy this building burned, and many of the lodge records were thus destroyed. Another move was made in 1867, on December 6 of that year the Grand Lodge dedicating a room over Redfern's store, northeast corner of Nineteenth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue (or H Street), but the stay here was brief, the present room at the southwest corner of Nineteenth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, being dedicated October 30, 1872. Through a series of alterations and improvements this has become a model lodge home.



It is worthy of note that while in the course of its existence the lodge has met in five different buildings; all of these have been within a radius of several squares, giving to No. 10 the prestige of antiquity among the institutions of that section of the city.

That the lodge has been foremost in all the movements for the betterment of the Fraternity is well illustrated by the fact that in 1878, when the Grand Lodge moved its Library to the ground floor of the old Temple and requested a contribution from each of the subordinate lodges for rental, Hiram was the only one to respond favorably, and the response was accompanied by six months' assessments in advance.

An exhaustive and readable history of the lodge, from the pen of Past Master Ervin S. Hubbard, is about to be published, and will be available to all interested brethren.

Hiram has given three Grand Masters to the local Craft: John N. Moulder, 1826-27 (while of No. 3), and 1830-32, '38 (as of No. 10); Wm. B. Magruder (a handsome marble bust of whom adorns the lodge room), 1845-46, '54, and George H. Walker, 1903, the first named (then of No. 3) serving as S. G. W. in 1825, and the last filling most of the subordinate positions in turn.

In addition to the above, T. J. Williams filled the office of Dep. G. M. in 1837; Louis D. Wine, J. G. W., 1872-73, S. G. W., 1874, and Dep. G. M., 1875-76; Thos. Smith, J. G. W., 1842-43, and S. G. W., 1844; Jos. E. Rawlings, J. G. W., 1864; Thos. J. Williams, G. Secty., 1834-35, and H. C. Williams, same office, 1844-47.

The present list of Past Masters follows: Martin R. Thorp, 75; Jas. B. Lambie, 76-77; Robert Armour, 79; Jas. W. Wrenn, 83; Ira W. Hopkins, 84-85; Warren C. Bickford, 86-87; Fielder I. Hunter, 88\*; Frederick W. Ritter, Jr., 89; Geo. W. Linkins, 94; John Breen, 95; Alva S. Taber, 96; Geo. W. Uline, 97; Wm. F. R. Phillips, 98; John T. Meany, 99; Edwin C. Brandenburg, 00; Henry C. Frankenfield, 01; Jacob A. Clevinger, 02\*; Isaac H. Strasburger, 02; S. Clifford Cox, 03; Claude J. Allen, 04; Wm. B. Stokes, 05\*; Ervin S.



Hubbard, 05; Wm. W. Stevens, 06; Henry S. Baker, 07\*; Harry G. Kimball, 07; Mark F. Finley, 08; Calvin F. Hummel, 09; Wm. G. Pond, 10.

Officers for the centennial year:

Charles W. Pimper, W. M.; William P. Herbst, S. W., and August B. Douglas, J. W.

### ST. JOHN'S LODGE, NO. 11.

This lodge, the first organized in nearly two decades, applied for a charter December 27, 1845, the first officers nominated being George C. Thomas, Master; Joseph F. Brown, S. W.; and John W. Williams, J. W., and the petition signed by Geo. C. Thomas, James H. Birch, John W. Williams, Jos. D. Ward, Ezra Williams, Thomas Copeland, Robert Boyd, J. C. Mullay, Jos. F. Brown, and Nahum Stone, and recommended by H. C. Williams, G. Secretary; J. Y. Young, D. G. M., Georgetown, and Robert Coltman, G. Treasurer.

The charter was unanimously granted by the Grand Lodge the same evening, but bears date of February 23, 1846, on the evening of which day the lodge held its first meeting, in Odeon Hall, Pennsylvania Avenue and John Marshall Place, N. W. (then Four-and-a-Half Street), when Grand Master Wm. B. Magruder, accompanied by a majority of the Grand Officers, was present, delivered the charter, installed the officers, and formally constituted or organized the lodge.

The first officers of the lodge were: George C. Thomas, Master; Ezra Williams, S. W.; John W. Williams, J. W.; Joseph D. Ward, Sec.; James H. Birch, Treas.; P. H. Hooe, S. D.; Albion Hurdle, J. D.; and Samuel Walker, Tyler.

By 1847 the original membership of ten had increased to twenty-one but in 1848 difficulties arose in the lodge of so grave a nature that it was at one time determined to surrender the charter at the annual communication of the Grand Lodge of that year. Happily, however, this decision was recon-

sidered, the trouble amicably adjusted, and the members renewed their labors with increased vigor, the roster for 1850 footing up fifty-three names, which, by 1860, was increased to 132, since which time the growth has been practically uninterrupted, until at present it ranks as one of the larger lodges with a membership of 475.

On the evening of January 8, 1858, the regular meeting night of the lodge, the unusual condition arose of a lodge with a large membership having no one present qualified to assemble it, whereupon Grand Master Whiting organized a "Lodge of Emergency," and installed the officers-elect for the ensuing year.

St. John's Lodge has not only long been in the front rank numerically, but has been preëminently a public-spirited and progressive factor in the local Masonic family, evidence of this being found in its contribution of \$500 in 1854 toward the erection of a Temple, a project at that time being pushed by the Fraternity here, and its generous aid in all the various charitable and other activities of the last half century.

Particular credit must be given to this lodge for its noble work during the Civil War, at which time the city was filled with sick, wounded, and distressed brethren from every section, in taking the initiative in a concerted movement on the part of the lodges to extend systematic relief to these, which resulted in the liberal distribution of money, clothing, tobacco, and transportation, and was of incalculable benefit in mitigating the suffering of the time, and a practical application of the tenets of the Order.

Three Grand Masters have come out of this lodge: Charles F. Stansbury, 1862, 1871-74; Jesse W. Lee, Jr., 1888; and Harry Standiford, 1901, the two latter also serving in the several subordinate chairs of the Grand Lodge. In addition to the above named, George C. Thomas filled the chairs of J. G. W. in 1842-43, S. G. W., 1844, and D. G. M., 1848; P. H. Hooe, J. G. W., 1853, and D. G. M., 1854-55; J. H. Russell, S. G. W., 1868-69, and D. G. M., 1870; E. Williams, J. G. W., 1849, and S. G. W., 1850; T. H. Baird, Jr., S. G. W.,

1860; Wm. M. Smith, J. G. W., 1857; Hopkins Lightner, 1858-59; N. Morris Smith, G. Sec., 1862-66; Charles W. Hancock, G. Sec., 1872, and Christopher Cammack, G. Treas., 1855-72, with Joseph H. Milans, the present G. Pursuivant.

The present list of Past Masters is as follows: Chas. W. Hancock, 69; Geo. A. Abbott, 72, 76; Geo. Wright, 73; Jesse W. Lee, Jr., 79-80, 82; Geo. P. Bohrer, 85-86; Wm. H. Douglas, 88; Harry Standiford, 90; Frank J. Foster, 92; Edwin A. Heilig, 93; Robert A. Dellett, 94; Jas. E. Hutchinson, 95; Vernon E. Hodges, 96; Edwin A. Niess, 97; Wm. T. Jones, 98; Chas. Fernald, 00; Robert A. Daniel, 01; Amadeo L. Thomas, 03; Jos. H. Milans, 04; Abram B. Hooe, 05; J. Marion Castell, 06; Allen Bussius, 07; Frank A. Steele, 08; Harry S. Wolf, 09; Charles E. Babcock, 10.

Following are the officers for the centennial year:

Levi H. David, W. M.; Charles E. Etchberger, Jr., S. W., and Fred M. Bock, J. W.

### NATIONAL LODGE, NO. 12.

Upon the petition of Brothers J. B. Thomas, William Gordon, W. Ogden Niles, T. P. Andrews, Samuel A. Allen, H. Langtry, R. Cochran, J. Knox Walker, James Shields, Jno. M. McCalla, Andrew J. McCalla, S. H. Laughlin, N. Lane, and Wm. Collins, Grand Master Wm. B. Magruder granted a dispensation sometime during the month of January, 1846, for the formation of National Lodge, and at the semi-annual communication of the Grand Lodge, May 7, 1846, a charter was ordered to issue with the above title.

The first roster, bearing date of October 27, 1846, is as follows: James Shields, W. M.; John M. McCalla, S. W.; H. Langtry, J. W.; Samuel A. Allen, Sec.; J. B. Thomas, Treas.; John Robinson, Tyler; and T. P. Andrews, J. H. Blake, R. Cochran, Wm. Collins, F. S. Evans, B. B. French, W. Gordon, F. Howard, P. C. Johnson, N. Lane, S. H. Laughlin, A. J. McCalla, W. Ogden Niles, N. A. Randel,

J. Knox Walker, W. W. Woodworth, J. S. Wilson, Saml. Walker, C. S. Frailey, W. W. Curran, J. Scott Cunningham, P. G. Washington, J. C. McGuire, A. Porter, G. C. Whiting, Thos. Miller, Joseph Wimsatt, L. L. Loving, and D. E. Stanton.

This number had increased to thirty-nine at the next return, and to fifty-six by 1860; but two years later the lodge came to grief through the unfortunate handling of the trial of an accused brother, and in consequence thereof on January 21, 1863, in obedience to the order of the Grand Lodge, surrendered its charter, books, papers, seal, jewels, and other property to the custody of the Grand Master.

At the meeting of the Grand Lodge, however, on May 5, 1863, upon the petition of the then Master and Wardens, the charter and property were returned, and, this cloud having rolled by, practically unbroken well-being has been the lot of this lodge, and while it has not attained great numerical strength it has in the present year the handsome total of 238.

On the evening of April 18, 1871, in this lodge occurred an event of historical interest, to which allusion has been made in other pages of this work. In the presence of a large concourse of visiting Brethren Lord Tenderden, P. M. of Harmony Lodge, England, acting under a dispensation from Grand Master Stansbury, and in his presence, conferred the third degree according to the English method upon Bros. J. N. Acker and Alex. Tait, balloted for and elected to that degree the same evening.

More than passing notice is due the first Master of National, Gen. James Shields, who at the time of the formation of the Lodge, was Commissioner of the General Land Office under President Polk, having previously been a member of the Illinois Legislature and a circuit judge. He was a contemporary of Abraham Lincoln, and his rival to some extent in affairs both of the heart and politics. During his long career he represented three States in the Senate—the only man who has ever done so—and had frequent opportunities during more than thirty years to visit old National Lodge. He was

thirty-six years old when he became National's first Master. His subsequent career may be briefly stated as follows: Brevet Major General for service in the Mexican war, in which he was desperately wounded; United States Senator from Illinois, 1849-55; United States Senator from Minnesota, 1858-9; Major General in the Union army; United States Senator from Missouri, January-March, 1879. Died at Ottumwa, Iowa, June 1, 1879, aged sixty-nine. A bronze statue of Gen. Shields stands in Statuary Hall at the Capitol.

Upon his return from the Mexican war the Grand Lodge was called in special session to tender him a reception.

Two Grand Masters have come from National Lodge: B. B. French, 1847-53, and I. L. Johnson, 1875-76, the latter also previously serving J. G. W., S. G. W., and D. G. M., while T. John Newton, the present J. G. W., who has come through the entire line, will, in the ordinary course, fill the office in a few years.

In addition to the above, E. M. Cunningham served as S. G. W. in 1852; M. C. Baxter, J. G. W., 1870, and Charles S. Frailey, G. Sec., 1848-54, who, as a member of No. 15, was Grand Master 1855-56.

The present list of Past Masters is as follows: Richard C. Lewis, 78-80; Edward Kern, 82-83; T. John Newton, 85-86; Joseph M. Eggleston, 87-88; William E. Handy, 94; Joseph E. Falk, 98; Fred. W. Buddecke, 99; Abner P. Wilde, 00; Dan C. Vaughan, 01; Wm. T. Hastings, 02-03; Samuel W. E. Pegues, 04; Jos. A. McDannel, 05; Louis Kronheimer, 06; Lafayette Leaman, 07; J. E. Payne, 08; James E. Tibbetts, 09; Roger O'Donnell, 10.

The officers for the centennial year are:

George L. Sherman, W. M.; Robert Meyer, S. W., and John M. Jones, J. W.



EDWARD H. CHAMBERLIN,  
GRAND MASTER, 1883.





## CALIFORNIA LODGE, NO. 13.

[NOW CALIFORNIA LODGE, NO 1, UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF  
THE GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA.]

This lodge was the direct outgrowth of the gold fever which attended the discovery of the precious metal in California in the late forties. A number of brethren residing in Washington and contemplating the long trip around the Horn, desired to take with them into the new country a warrant to meet and do Masonic work, and accordingly, at the communication of the Grand Lodge November 7, 1848, a petition, in the usual form and with the recommendation of Federal Lodge, No. 1, was presented, and, the prayer of the petitioners being granted, a charter was ordered to issue to them for a lodge to be known as "California Lodge, No. 13," to be located in the town of San Francisco, Upper California. The officers named were: Samuel Yorke AtLee, R. W. M.; Wm. Van Voorhies, S. W.; and Bedney F. McDonald, J. W.; the first of whom was immediately installed in the Grand Lodge.

In addition to the three above named, the petition was signed by P. Allan Brinsmade, J. Brunson, E. M. Cunningham, Wm. R. Bradford, Samuel M. Edwards, and Levi Stowell.

Previous to their departure Brother AtLee resigned, and the Grand Master appointed, and caused to be installed in New Jerusalem Lodge, Levi Stowell in his stead, who received the charter and proceeded to the new field. The names appended to this charter were: Wm. Van Voorhies, Levi Stowell, P. A. Brinsmade, John W. Geary, A. G. Selover, and J. D. Stevenson.

A letter from W. Bro. Stowell to Chas. S. Frailey, G. Secretary, dated March 27, 1850, gives a most entertaining insight into some of the early difficulties encountered, and we quote the following brief extract as of special historical interest:

"The extraordinary circumstances existing at the time of

my arrival in the country prevented my organizing the lodge until late in the year. No proper place could be obtained to hold a lodge, and so intent were all persons in their pursuit for gain that few, if any, could be persuaded to devote an hour's time to anything not affecting their own pecuniary interests; and, in order to preserve my charter from expiring by limitation it required constant and strenuous exertions on my part, by which I was enabled to erect and furnish a suitable building in which to hold the lodge; which was duly organized in the fore part of November last, under very favorable auspices."

By the latter part of December of the same year the lodge had a membership roll of twenty-three names, with several petitions under consideration, and immediately took a position of leadership in Masonic matters on the West Coast.

On April 9, 1850, it participated in the formation of the Grand Lodge of California, and became California Lodge, No. 1, the separation from our own jurisdiction being conducted regularly and with the best of feeling on both sides.

As the offspring of this Grand Lodge, it is with pride that we note the eminently successful career of this lodge, which furnished the first Grand Master for the new jurisdiction, and later two others, two Grand Treasurers, and all of the Grand Secretaries.

In the great earthquake and succeeding conflagration of April 18-19, 1905, the Masonic Temple in San Francisco, as is well known, was destroyed, and while California Lodge saved its charter, jewels, and funds, its records and all else were lost, among other valuables being a book of By-Laws, adopted in 1849, and containing the autographs of every brother who had ever been connected with the lodge to 1905, numbering between 1,700 and 1,800 names.

## WASHINGTON CENTENNIAL LODGE, NO. 14.

As its name indicates, the formation of this lodge was coincident with the one hundredth anniversary of George Washington's elevation to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, and the petition for a dispensation so thoroughly covers the reasons for its being as to justify full quotation :

*To the Most Worshipful Benjamin B. French, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in the District of Columbia.*

Most Worshipful Sir and Brother: The undersigned Master Masons residing in the Seventh Ward of the City of Washington, being desirous to extend the benefits of this Ancient and Honorable Order to that portion of the city, which by its remoteness from the places at which their Brethren assemble in other parts of the jurisdiction is debarred of its privileges, and at the same time desiring to commemorate by the institution of a new Lodge the centennial recurrence of the anniversary of the initiation of our late illustrious Brother George Washington in conformity with the ancient rites of the Order, do hereby respectfully and fraternally present their petition for a dispensation authorizing the establishment of a Lodge in conformity with the ancient constitutions of the Order and the constitution of the Grand Lodge aforesaid, by the name and style of the "Washington Centennial Lodge" of the District of Columbia, and at the same time present for your consideration the names of Brother Ezra Williams as Worshipful Master, Brother Samuel Byington as Senior Warden, and Brother Thomas Thomas as Junior Warden of said Lodge.

*Washington, D. C., August —, 1852.*

The petition was recommended by Federal Lodge, August 31, 1852, and carried the following signatures: J. Van Riswick, Ezra Williams, Jno. W. Willson, Samuel Byington, C. Ashford, Henry Dudley, J. George Stok, J. H. Wilson, Geo. W. Garrett, William McPeake, John P. Raub, Fredk. Whyte, Wm. Tucker, Arthur B. Williams, Thomas Thomas, John E. Baker, and S. Yorke AtLee.

The prayer was at once granted, and the lodge commenced operations in the unbroken field of South Washington, more isolated in those days than at present by reason of the existence of the old canal, which completely cut off this section and gave it the name of "The Island," which still survives. A

home was found in Island Hall, corner Sixth Street and Virginia Avenue, S. W., where the lodge for a number of years enjoyed most commodious quarters, and where the Grand Lodge frequently met.

A petition for a warrant was presented to the Grand Lodge November 2, 1852, and unanimously granted, the number 14 being assigned to the new lodge, and the date of the warrant made November 4, to comply with the desire of the petitioners to have the exact date whereon Washington was initiated into the mysteries of Masonry. For some reason not of record, but seven names appear upon this latter petition, as against seventeen appended to the first, and are as follows: Ezra Williams, Thomas Thomas, Craven Ashford, J. Van Riswick, John E. Baker, J. P. Raub, and Samuel Byington.

By the year 1855 the membership had increased to thirty-five, and by 1860 to sixty-nine, since which time the progress has been unusually rapid, and No. 14 now ranks as one of the larger lodges, with a membership in the year of publication of 498.

It is, perhaps, a matter of regret that the lodge abandoned the territory of its birth and moved to the center of the city, as this large field has since remained wholly without any Masonic organization.

The lodge has been represented in the principal offices of the Grand Lodge as follows: H. A. Whitney, Grand Master in 1879, and John Henry Small, G. M., 1899, both of whom also served in the subordinate offices; George B. Clark, S. G. W., 1870, and Dep. G. M., 1871; A. G. Fowler, J. G. W., 1860; A. T. Longley, J. G. W., 1867, and L. Cabell Williamson, J. G. W., 1890 (afterward G. M. as of No. 26).

The present list of Past Masters follows: Emmett C. Elmore, 77; Howard P. Marshall, 80; John J. Hill, 84; Walter B. Pettus, 90\*; Herbert N. Keene, 90; John H. Small, Jr., 91-92; Jas. H. McIntosh, 92\*; Eugene C. C. Winter, 93; Robert Connell, 94; Harry F. Riley, 95; Franklin W. Harper, 96; John H. Davis, 98; David Kahn, 99\*; Edson Phillips, 99; Samuel P. Johnson, 00; Ernest H. Daniel, 01; John H.



MYRON M. PARKER,  
GRAND MASTER, 1884-1885.





Benton, 02\*; John Speed Smith, 02; Ralph L. Hall, 03; Jas. W. Witten, 04; Evander French, 05; Clarence R. Dufour, 06; Dean Swift, 07; Robert J. Hall, 08\*; A. Sidney Jones, 08; John G. Rice, 09\*; Victor H. Wallace, 09; Henry F. Woodward, 10.

The officers for the centennial year are :

James T. McClenahan, W. M.; Wallace Streater, S. W., and Jason Waterman, J. W.

### BENJAMIN B. FRENCH LODGE, NO. 15.

The unfortunate disappearance of the early records of this lodge, together with the peculiar fact that the usual papers relative to formation are not on file in the Grand Lodge archives, precludes the possibility of a detailed story of its birth, one of the principal features sought after in these sketches.

From the evidence available, however, we find that the request for a dispensation for this lodge was recommended by Federal Lodge, No. 1, December 20, 1853; that a dispensation was granted by Grand Master B. B. French, December 22, 1853, and that at the annual communication of the Grand Lodge held December 27, of the same year, a report of the proceedings of the lodge, U. D., was presented, together with a petition for a charter, and, on motion, the prayer was granted without a dissenting voice.

The first return, made the same night it may be assumed, contained the names of the original signers, and is as follows: Herman H. Heath, W. Master; George C. Whiting, S. W., and John L. Clubb, J. W., and James H. Blake, W. S. Crawford, William M. Ferguson, H. F. Loudon, James C. McGuire, Thomas Miller, R. R. Richards, Samuel J. Seely, and P. G. Washington.

From the very beginning the lodge seems to have prospered, the membership reaching sixty-five in 1860, 224 (including E. A. and F. C.) in 1871, and, experiencing a prac-

tically uninterrupted proportionate growth to the present, the number of members in good standing on the last return footing the handsome total of 700.

In the absence of any evidence to the contrary, it may be accepted as a fact that at the time of its formation the lodge met in the old Medical College Building, Tenth and E Streets, N. W., moving with the other bodies, in 1854, to the Masonic Hall, southwest corner of Ninth and D Streets, N. W., and this tenancy is proven by the fact that the returns are dated from "Central Masonic Hall," the designation given to this latter meeting place, and a source of some natural confusion to students of the subject, inasmuch as the same title had originally been held by the Masonic building on the corner of Indiana Avenue and John Marshall Place.

In 1870 quarters were found in the Temple, Ninth and F Streets, N. W., and, upon the completion of the present building, its latest move was made to that edifice.

On December 27, 1903, No. 15 celebrated its semi-centennial with appropriate exercises, including a number of exceptionally valuable papers by distinguished members of the lodge, and these have been preserved in a souvenir volume, which is a model of typographical excellence, contains much interesting matter, and is available to all brethren desiring to acquaint themselves with its purely personal history.

The following interesting statistical information prepared by Past Master E. St. Clair Thompson, for a number of years the Secretary, is indirectly quoted as furnishing a fair sample of the operations of a prosperous lodge for a period of fifty years. To include the year 1902, 1,523 Master Masons had been made, with twenty-one Fellow Crafts and sixty-seven Entered Apprentices, while 163 men had been rejected for the degrees.

This lodge is distinguished above all others in the District in that six Grand Masters have called it "home," as follows: C. S. Frailey, 1855-56; George C. Whiting, 1857-61; 65-67; B. B. French, 1868 (formerly G. M. as of No. 12); Myron M. Parker, 1884-85; James A. Sample, 1890, and James A.

Wetmore, 1904, a total of fifteen years of service in the Grand East, while the near future in all probability holds still another in the person of Alexander Grant, the present Grand Marshal. The first named in the list went to the highest station from the desk of Grand Secretary, having served there (as of No. 12) from 1848 to 1854. George C. Whiting also filled the office of Grand Secretary in 1856, and in a similar manner went, in the following year, to that of Grand Master. With the exception of B. B. French, the remainder also filled the important subordinate chairs, James A. Sample being further honored by being elected to the post of Grand Treasurer in 1902, and remaining as the present incumbent. In addition to the above, Warren H. Orcutt served as J. G. W. in 1869.

The present list of Past Masters is as follows: Frederick Johnston, 72; Geo. H. Lillebridge, 73; John Tweedale, 74-75; Samuel B. Evans, 79; Myron M. Parker, 80; Samuel E. Slater, 82; Jas. A. Sample, 83; Wm. H. Lemon, 84; Wm. Barnum, 87; John S. Tomlinson, 88\*; Gabriel F. Johnston, 88; Nathan Hazen, 89; Howard M. Gillman, 90; Convis Parker, 91\*; Frank F. Major, 93; Jas. A. Wetmore, 94; Donald B. MacLeod, 96\*; M. C. Connelly, 96\*; Watson B. Mundell, 96\*; Jos. A. Oliver, 96; Henry M. Schooley, 97; John C. Chaney, 98; Alex. Grant, 99; Geo. F. Foote, 00\*; E. St. Clair Thompson, 00; Edward W. Woodruff, 01\*; James T. Gibbs, 01; Herbert MacNamee, 02; Frederick W. Culp, 03\*; Harry A. Fellows, 03; Noel W. Barksdale, 04; Townley A. McKee, 05; Fred. D. Griffith, 06\*; Andrew Wilson, 06; Walter R. Whittlesey, 07\*; Arthur L. Bryant, 07; Wm. Hart Dexter, 08\*; Joseph O. Harrison, 08; Emmett M. Carter, 09; Henry E. Bittinger, 10.

Following are the officers for the centennial year:

Martin R. Speelman, W. M.; Harry L. Strang, Jr., S. W., and Leslie Cramer, J. W.

## DAWSON LODGE, NO. 16.

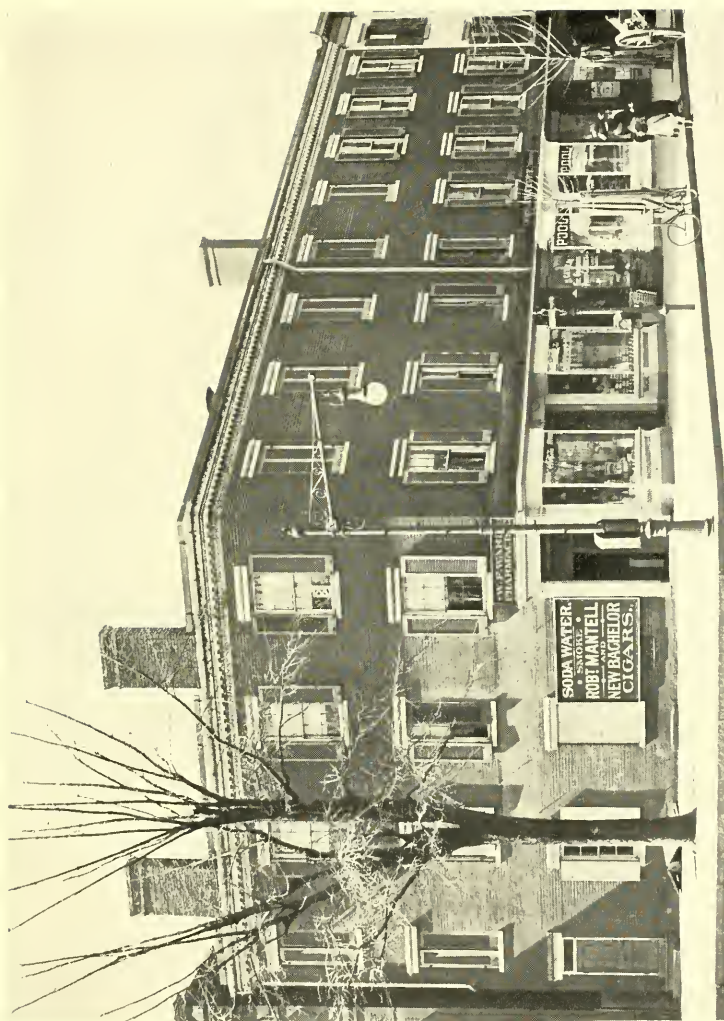
In the early part of 1857 a number of worthy brethren, drawn principally from St. John's Lodge, drew up a petition to the Grand Master, in which they represented that they were desirous of reviving Columbia Lodge, No. 3, and praying that the original charter of that lodge be returned to them. Two of the signers represented themselves as formerly of No. 3; but the prayer was not complied with, on the ground that the power to return the charter was vested in the Grand Lodge.

On March 3, 1857, the same brethren renewed their petition for a dispensation to assemble as a legal lodge under the style and designation of Columbia Lodge. Upon consideration, however, they seem to have abandoned their desire for this title and adopted that of Dawson Lodge, in honor of Grand Master William C. Dawson, of Georgia, who, while a resident of the District during his service in Congress, took an active interest in the local Fraternity.

The petition was recommended by Hiram Lodge, No. 10, under date of March 6, and the dispensation issued by Grand Master Whiting March 16, 1857, Samuel T. Shugert being empowered to act as W. M., Dewitt C. Lawrence as S. W., and Z. D. Gilman as J. W.

The paper of March 3, in addition to the above named, was signed as follows: Amos T. Jenckes, Saml. P. Bell, H. N. Steele, A. B. Stoughton, P. E. Wilson, Marcus Bull, J. E. Holmead, Alfred Holmead, Henry O. Brigham, Comfort S. Whittlesey, S. P. Franklin, E. B. Barrett, J. C. Foertsch, J. H. Phillips, J. Typowski, LL. D., E. G. Guest, Z. C. Robbins, F. Glenroy, S. E. Murphy, and W. H. Nalley.

These names, with the exception of that of J. Typowski, also appear on the application for a charter, which was presented to the Grand Lodge at the semi-annual communication of May 5, 1857. This application was accompanied by all the papers, minutes, &c., kept by the lodge while under dispensation, and, on motion, a charter was unanimously granted, and the number 16 assigned to the new member.



HOME OF HIRAM LODGE, No. 10, SINCE 1872—SOUTHWEST CORNER PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE  
AND NINETEENTH STREET, N. W.





By 1860 the membership had grown to 99, and by 1865 to 208, since which time, while this rate of increase has not been continuous, the additions have indicated a healthy growth, the present roster showing 321 names.

To this lodge belongs the distinction of having first introduced music as an accessory to the degree work in the District, the original quartette consisting of Brothers George L. Sheriff, David L. Bennett, Robert Ball, and John R. Dawson.

Dawson has given one Grand Master to the jurisdiction in the person of J. E. F. Holmead, who served as such in 1864, having previously filled the offices of J. G. W., in 1862, and S. G. W., in 1863. In addition to this officer, S. T. Shugert held the post of S. G. W., in 1858-59; Z. D. Gilman, same office, 1862, and W. J. Stephenson, G. Treas., 1877-78.

The present list of Past Masters is as follows:

Benjamin F. Bittinger, 74\*; Edwin S. Holmes, Sr., 74-75; William A. De Caidry, 76-77; Orville Drown, 82; H. Harvey Hazard, 83; Rodolph Williss, 84; Jas. H. Trimble, 85; Henry C. Thompson, 86; Benj. F. Larcombe, Jr., 89; Samuel R. Bond, 93; Jesse F. Grant, 94; Edgar G. Harbaugh, 98; Edwin S. Holmes, Jr., 99; Benj. F. Odell, 00; John B. Ireland, 01\*; Geo. W. Siggers, 02; John A. Colborn, 03; Ernest G. Thompson, 04; Wm. F. Lannan, 05; Louis Jacobson, 06\*; Milton Strasburger, 06; George W. Baumann, 07; Wm. M. Wailes, 08; Joseph P. Stephenson, 09; Claude H. Woodward, 10.

Following are the officers for the centennial year:

Geo. G. Seibold, W. M.; Thomas W. Bramhall, S. W., and John I. Painter, J. W.

### HARMONY LODGE, NO. 17.

The dispensation to Harmony Lodge departs somewhat from the usual form, but is a paper of such dignity and value as to warrant quotation in full:

*To all whom it may concern, GREETING:*

Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

Whereas, application has been made to me by W. A. Shannon, Ira Murdock, E. C. Eckloff, Willard Ayers, DeWitt C. Clark, John W. D. Gray, John M. McCalla, Henry Prince, George M. Howard, Wm. Blair Lord, and William H. Faulkner, who are well known to me to be Master Masons, for authority to open and hold a lodge within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, to be known and recognized as Harmony Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons: And whereas, the said application has been duly and properly endorsed and recommended to me by eminent Masons, and also by Benjamin B. French Lodge, No. 15, of this jurisdiction: And whereas, there appears to me other good and sufficient reasons why the petition of said brethren should be granted, therefore, I, Yelverton Peyton Page, Grand Master of Masons of the District of Columbia do, by the high powers in me vested, hereby authorize and empower the said Master Masons, whose names are inserted herein, to convene and hold a lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, to be known and recognized as Harmony Lodge, at such times and place, in the City of Washington, as to them may seem best. And further, I do hereby appoint Brother John W. D. Gray, to act as Worshipful Master; Brother Wm. Blair Lord, to act as Senior Warden, and Brother E. C. Eckloff, to act as Junior Warden of said Harmony Lodge; authorizing and empowering them to enter, pass, and raise such persons as may make application to them for the degrees of Masonry in regular form and be found worthy, but to do no other act whatsoever: Provided, That the said Master and Wardens shall always be governed by the Ancient Landmarks, the General Regulations, and the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia.

This Dispensation to continue in force until the semi-annual communication of the Grand Lodge, unless sooner revoked.

Given under my hand and seal, at the City of Washington, this 24th day of January, A. D. 1863, A. L. 5863.

Y. P. PAGE,

*Grand Master, D. C.*

At the communication of May 5, of the same year, upon proper application, again recommended by Benjamin B. French Lodge, a charter was ordered to issue to Harmony Lodge, No. 17, and on the evening of the 13th of the same month the ceremony of institution was performed, with P. G. M. French presiding.

The names appended to the petition for charter vary somewhat from those shown above, and are as follows: Wm. Blair Lord, Henry Prince, John W. D. Gray, Wm. J. Brown,

John M. McCalla, George M. Howard, Willard Ayers, Wm. A. Yates, and E. C. Eckloff.

Thus auspiciously came into being one of our most progressive and successful lodges, which in a few years had a membership of over 100, and at this time stands well to the front with a total of 609 names.

Not only has No. 17 developed numerically, but it has also been foremost in all movements of a charitable nature, one instance of this being the appropriation of a liberal sum for the relief of the flood sufferers in Pennsylvania and Maryland, in 1889, in advance of all others, and is further shown by its active coöperation in every united effort since its organization.

While a "down town" lodge, it met for a number of years in the Scottish Rite Cathedral, in G Street, but moved, with the other bodies, to the present Temple in 1908.

From this lodge the chair of Grand Master was filled by Lurtin R. Ginn in 1905, who had previously served in the various subordinate positions in the Grand Lodge, and in addition W. G. Parkhurst occupied the station of S. G. W. in 1866; George E. Corson, J. G. W., 1880; Wm. A. Yates, G. Sec., 1873-75, and Arvine W. Johnston, the present G. Secretary, who has held that office continuously since 1901.

The present list of Past Masters is as follows: Robert W. Hardy, 75; Geo. E. Corson, 77-78; John Wilson, 79-80; Orange S. Firmin, 83; John F. Blackmar, 87-88; Frederick K. Swett, 89; W. Hamilton Smith, 90; Lurtin R. Ginn, 91; Wm. T. Johnson, 92\*; Francis M. Criswell, 92; Arvine W. Johnston, 94; Chas. L. Heilbrun, 95; Bennett A. Allen, 96; Wallace C. Babcock, 97; Chas. T. Caldwell, 99; J. Louis Willige, 01; Chas. E. Gross, 02; Louis D. Carman, 03; Maurice D. Rosenberg, 04; Clarence A. Weaver, 05; Clarence M. Exley, 06; Frank R. Underwood, 07; Walter B. Davis, 08; Roe Fulkerson, 09; Otto J. De Moll, 10.

Following are the officers for the centennial year:

Francis N. Westerman, W. M.; Robert H. Young, S. W., and Edmund S. Wolfe, J. W.

## ACACIA LODGE, NO. 18.

December 5, 1863, Grand Master Charles F. Stansbury granted a dispensation upon a proper petition to certain brethren to organize a lodge to be known as Acacia Lodge, and by the same instrument empowered Z. D. Gilman to act as Worshipful Master, Samuel P. Bell as Senior Warden, and J. W. Jennings as Junior Warden.

At the communication of the Grand Lodge held December 28, 1863, this dispensation was returned, and a petition for a charter recommended by St. John's Lodge, No. 11, presented, bearing the following names: W. H. Baldwin, Edwd. Baldwin, Isaac Bassett, H. C. Baldwin, J. P. Bartholow, S. P. Bell, C. B. Baker, Z. D. Gilman, A. P. Gorman, T. M. Hanson, — Heustis, J. W. Jennings, B. S. Lamkin, J. M. McGrew, Daniel McFarlan, O. W. Palmer, John F. Sharrett, A. C. Toner, P. E. Wilson, Jos. B. Will, and Fred. Whyte.

The prayer being granted and the charter ordered to issue, the lodge was duly instituted as Acacia Lodge, No. 18, December 30, 1863, the occasion being unique in that upon the same evening LaFayette Lodge, No. 19, which had received its charter at the same time, was also instituted.

Altho but one day elapsed between the surrender of the dispensation and the institution of the lodge, a meeting was held and several candidates passed to the degree of Fellow Craft, but upon its being shown to have been an inadvertence, the offense was pardoned by the Grand Lodge and the Fellow Crafts healed. The incident is given place as a practical illustration of one of many peculiar conditions which circumstances may force upon a lodge.

By the year 1865 the membership had increased to fifty-three, and ten years later footed up 129, since which time, with the exception of an occasional period of depression, the increase has been satisfactory, the latest return showing a roster of 202 names.

While no local Grand Master has as yet come from the ranks of the initiates or affiliates of this lodge, M. W. Bro.

Wm. D. Todd, who was raised in Acacia Lodge in 1873, served as Grand Master of Colorado in 1889, and has always retained a great love for his mother lodge.

Representation in the subordinate positions in the Grand Lodge line has been as follows: Joseph B. Will, J. G. W., 1868, and Dep. G. M., 1869; and B. F. Fuller, J. G. W., 1878, S. G. W., 1879, and Dep. G. M., 1880.

Following are the living Past Masters: Chas. W. Franzoni, 73; Wm. P. Young, 75; Rufus H. Thayer, 79-80, 84; Thos. Robinson, 85-86; Alex. H. Holt, 88; Chas. H. Elliott, 89; Geo. W. Koonce, 90; Harvey W. P. Hunt, 94; Heath Sutherland, 95; Wm. H. Douglas, 96†; Chas. J. O'Neill, 96; Richard P. Williams, 97\*; Edwin B. Hesse, 97; Seward T. Covert, 99; John H. Small, Jr., 00†; Ulysses G. Perry, 01; Henry H. Burroughs, 02; Chas. A. Springer, 03; Chas. E. Stevens, 05; John E. Borland, 07; Howard G. Brown, 08; Edward E. Clement, 09; Francis A. Springer, 10.

The officers for the centennial year are as follows:

Delos M. Carter, W. M.; Harry J. Robertson, S. W., and James H. Windsor, J. W.

### LA FAYETTE LODGE, NO. 19.

This lodge, the twin sister of Acacia, received a dispensation from Grand Master Charles F. Stansbury on Christmas day, 1863, and three days later, on the 28th, returned said dispensation to the Grand Lodge attached to a regular petition for a charter to empower it to assemble as a legal lodge, to be known as LaFayette Lodge, No. 19, and to discharge the duties of Masonry in a regular and constitutional manner according to the original "forms of the Order and the regulations of the Grand Lodge."

The first officers nominated in the petition for dispensation were Chauncey Smith, W. M.; John H. Benton, S. W., and H. J. Alvord, J. W., but these selections appear to have been immediately reconsidered, as the petition for a charter, while naming the same brother as Master, suggested the names of



F. H. Barroll and W. H. W. Weaver as S. W. and J. W., respectively.

Altho the large majority of the signers of the petition were members of Benjamin B. French Lodge the separation was with the best of feeling, apparently, and this was emphasized by the fact that said lodge recommended to the Grand Lodge that the prayer be granted.

At the same communication of that body the charter was ordered to issue, and on the evening of December 30, 1863, the ceremony of institution was performed, and the new lodge started on a career of prosperity.

The list of charter members, unusually long, follows: H. J. Alvord, T. S. Burr, P. B. Brown, Louis Burgdorf, F. H. Barroll, F. Bartlett, H. P. Bennett, J. H. Benton, J. V. Bryan, P. M. Clark, E. G. Chambers, D. A. Clayton, Paul C. Cook, J. H. Clements, Jos. Clare, J. T. Clements, Jr., J. W. Dwyer, Jas. H. Durham, Jeff. Fowler, G. W. Francis, F. W. C. Fox, E. A. Gillett, G. W. Goodall, H. A. Grannis, J. A. Graham, O. T. Gilman, J. B. Hutchinson, R. Hodgkins, R. J. Harrison, E. H. Kern, N. D. Larner, Peter Lammond, W. E. Moran, A. F. Moulden, J. H. Patrick, J. H. Reiss, C. W. Smith, G. E. W. Sharretts, E. A. Smith, Jacob D. Stone, R. H. Stewart, R. M. Sykes, Jno. H. Smoot, Thos. J. Williams, W. D. Wyville, John C. Wilson, R. E. Woodward, W. V. W. Weaver, and W. G. Whittlesey, forty-nine in all.

The growth of this lodge has been rapid and practically continuous, the membership in two years numbering 179, in ten years mounting to 258, and soon reaching first place in numerical strength in the jurisdiction, a distinction it still holds, the latest return crediting it with 753 names.

Four Grand Masters have come out of LaFayette Lodge: Joseph S. McCoy, 1880; Noble D. Larner, 1881-82; Henry S. Merrill, 1894, and Augustus B. Coolidge, 1908, all of whom, with the exception of Noble D. Larner, filling the several subordinate offices of the Grand Lodge, the latter's prior service consisting of a five-year term as Grand Secretary, from 1867 to 1871, inclusive.

The present list of Past Masters is as follows: Henry A. Whallon, 68-69; Frank M. Marshall, 72; Jos. S. McCoy, 73-74; Burton R. Ross, 75-76; Albert F. Fox, 79; W. Harry Olcott, 82; Hiram H. Martin, 86; Wm. S. Parks, 87; Henry S. Merrill, 88; Melchoir B. Strickler, 89\*; John M. McKinney, 89; Calvin Neilson, 90\*; Jas. H. Wardle, 90; Leonard C. Wood, 92; Thos. W. Cridler, 93; J. Wilson Townsend, 94; Augustus B. Coolidge, 95; John B. Daish, 97; Thos. P. Morgan, 98; Benj. S. Graves, 99; J. Chester Bowen, 01; Wm. T. Galliher, 02; John B. Hopkins, 03\*; W. Spencer Armstrong, 03; Jas. L. Marshall, 05; Jacob H. Lichliter, 06; Hart Momen, 07; Wm. H. Raymond, 08\*; Wm. H. Wanamaker, 08; Jas. L. Wilmeth, 09\*; John B. Nichols, 09; Gratz E. Dunkum, 10.

Following are the officers for the centennial year:

John R. Wright, W. M.; Charles H. Galliher, S. W., and James A. Hartsock, J. W.

### HOPE LODGE, NO. 20.

As the dark clouds of Rebellion rolled away, the Capital City, together with the whole country, entered upon an era of readjustment and recovery, with optimism and hope as the guiding stars, and thus it naturally came about that the first lodge formed under the new conditions had not far to seek for an appropriate name, and the spirit that actuated the founders in forming and naming this new member of the local Masonic family has ever since been characteristic of their successors, and has brought to No. 20 an unusual degree of popularity and well-being.

At the semi-annual communication of the Grand Lodge held May 7, 1867, a petition in due form was received praying for a charter to form a lodge to be known as Hope Lodge, No. 20, and, being favorably considered, a charter was ordered to issue accordingly, and on the 28th of the same month the new lodge was consecrated and instituted at Central Ma-

sonic Hall, Ninth and D Streets, N. W., in the presence of twenty-five of the members and a large concourse of visitors.

The petition above referred to was signed by the following brethren: Alan C. Adamson, Edward C. Atkins, John R. Arrison, Heinrich H. Boyer, Harry V. Cole, John J. Callahan, T. Harry Donehue, Charles H. Dickson, A. Ferdinand Des-sau, Julius Emmner, Albert M. Evans, Edgar Tewkes, Thomas H. Graham, Richard Goodhart, John H. Houston, Samuel Houston, James A. Jenkins, John C. Kondrup, Max Louis, William Mertz, Richard Morgan, Lewis S. Moe, John F. Mullowny, Walter S. McNairy, Jacob Peyser, Granville C. Ricketts, Slater B. Russell, Isaac B. Ruff, A. Rodrique, H. Dwight Smith, George J. Schwab, S. Norris Thorne, T. D. Winter, and James Wright, while the officers named in the first return were Henry V. Cole, W. M.; Samuel Houston, S. W.; and William Mertz, J. W.

The list of members had passed the hundred mark by 1875, and has shown an excellent average increase since, the present roster containing 354 names.

In July, 1867, the lodge decided to leave the Central Masonic Hall, and for several years was a tenant of Hiram Lodge, at Nineteenth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W., moved to Lodge Room No. 2 in the old Temple, Ninth and F Streets, December 22, 1871, and again changed to the new Temple upon its completion.

Admiral George W. Baird (Retired) has the distinction of being the only Grand Master as yet furnished by Hope Lodge, and previous to his occupancy of that chair, in 1896, he also served in the several subordinate Grand Lodge offices. In addition to this representation, Charles O. Brown filled the position of J. G. W. in 1883, and S. G. W. in 1884.

The present list of Past Masters is as follows: Wm. A. Craig, 80; Thos. W. Sanner, 81; Geo. W. Baird, 83; Fred. G. Dieterich, 86; John S. Mills, 87; Wm. P. Challice, 88; Clarence Lewis, 89; Wm. Briggs, 90; J. Harry Cunningham, 91; Chas. I. Snook, 92; Wm. A. Cohill, 93; Chas. W. Henshaw, 94; Frank P. Hays, 95\*; Chas. C. Van Horn, 98; Nathan S.



THOMAS P. CHIFFELLE,  
GRAND MASTER, 1886.



- Meyer, 99; John H. Small, Jr., 00†; Geo. A. Cohill, 00; John D. Hinternes, 01; Chas. Long, 02; Chas. M. Shinn, 03†; John F. Collins, 03; Alex. Wolf, 04; John H. Von Herrman, 05; Edward Y. Davidson, 06; John H. Hoffacker, 07; Allan R. Searle, 08; Edwin C. Dutton, 09; Horace P. McIntosh, 10.

Following are the officers for the centennial year :

Rudolph B. Behrend, W. M.; Harry G. Sherwood, S. W., and Grant S. Barnhart, J. W.

### ANACOSTIA LODGE, NO. 21.

Under date of September 14, 1868, seven Master Masons, residing in Uniontown (now Anacostia), D. C., formally requested an endorsement from Naval Lodge, No. 4, of their petition to Grand Master B. B. French, for a dispensation to form a new lodge in that suburb, but, for some reason which the kindly mists of the years has veiled, No. 4, altho conceding the petitioners to be Master Masons in good standing, refused a recommendation.

Through the good offices of M. W. Bro. French, however, a later petition, dated December 17, of the same year, met with better success, whereupon the Grand Master issued a dispensation in form, dated December 22, 1868, authorizing the formation in Uniontown of a lodge to be known as Anacostia Lodge, U. D., and appointed "our trusty and well beloved brother" William F. Farish, as Master; Bro. George H. Martin as S. W., and Bro. Charles S. Wheeler as J. W.

This dispensation being returned at the communication of the Grand Lodge December 28, 1868, accompanied by a regular petition signed by Brothers Wm. F. Farish, John R. McConnell, Charles S. Wheeler, Wm. H. Wheeler, Jno. Cruikshank, and B. F. Wilkins, a charter was the same evening ordered to issue, with the title of Anacostia Lodge, No. 21.

The institution took place March 8, 1869, at the lodge room in Uniontown, the occasion being made memorable by the presence of R. W. Bro. A. G. Mackey, the noted Masonic



writer and jurist, and M. W. Bro. W. F. Saunders, Grand Master of Montana Territory, the former, on invitation of Grand Master Donaldson, conducting the ceremony and installing the officers.

The building in which the initial meeting was held was a rough two-story frame structure, the lower part of which was used as a blacksmith and wheelwright shop, located on Harrison, near Monroe Street, Uniontown.

The lodge at once fell upon evil days. At the annual communication of November 2, 1869, Grand Master Donaldson reported that Anacostia Lodge, from various causes, one of which was the removal of some of its charter members, had not succeeded well, and on his recommendation a committee was appointed to investigate the conditions.

The report of this committee is a lengthy one, and shows that the membership had become so depleted that it was almost impossible to get enough together to open the lodge; that no degrees could be conferred for this and the further reason that the necessary furniture was lacking; that the lodge was in debt, and the outlook indeed gloomy.

In these straightened circumstances the lodge almost reached the point of surrendering the charter, indeed, took it under consideration, but, in December, 1869, finally determined to make another effort, took hold with new vigor, and in a short time got upon its feet again.

Some idea of the isolation of the section at that time may be gained from the report of the Grand Master the preceding year that the visitation had not been made to Anacostia Lodge by reason of the difficulty of getting across the Anacostia River.

On November 15, 1880, the lodge purchased the present site, corner Jackson and Pierce Streets, 78 by 90 feet, improved by a school building, readily made available for lodge purposes. The first meeting in the new home was held May 2, 1881, the building being dedicated to Masonic purposes by Grand Master Larner, October 31 of the same year.

Eight years thereafter the quarters were found to be inade-

quate, and, the membership having now increased to fifty-six, the present handsome edifice was contracted for. The frame building previously used was moved to a point immediately in the rear of the present edifice and is still standing (see illustration). During the erection of this hall the lodge met in the room of Naval Lodge, through the fraternal courtesy of that body, and this is only one of many gracious incidents going to show that the original unpleasantness between these two lodges had been short lived, and had given place to the most cordial relations.

On July 2, 1890, the cornerstone of the new hall was laid by Grand Master Sample, who also dedicated the building November 4, 1890.

While never a large lodge, the growth has been healthy, the roster now showing 225 names.

No. 22 has as yet furnished no representative to the official line of the Grand Lodge.

The present list of Past Masters is as follows: John H. Mills, 71-72, 95; Henry Kuhn, 85, 92-93; Samuel E. Shields, 88; Alex. B. Garden, 90; Thos. E. Sherman, 93†; Adolphus Gude, 94; Wilbur S. Dodge, 96; Wm. F. Gude, 98; Julius W. Tolson, 99-03; Wm. T. Galliher, 03†; Chas. J. James, 04; Warren Tolson, 05; Edgar R. Balderston, 06; Walter B. Fry, 07; Wm. R. Rauchenstein, 08; Samuel W. Pumphrey, 09; Jas. A. Sample, 10†; George H. Copes, 10.

Following are the officers for the centennial year:

Wilbur H. Lawrence, W. M.; Charles F. Roberts, S. W., and Milton J. Fillius, J. W.

### GEORGE C. WHITING LODGE, NO. 22.

December 22, 1868, Grand Master B. B. French, in response to a petition in due form signed by nineteen Master Masons and recommended by Potomac Lodge, No. 5, issued a dispensation for a lodge to be held in Georgetown, D. C., to be known as George Washington Lodge, U. D., and in the same instrument appointed M. C. Causten to be the first

Master, S. Norris Thorne the first S. W., and George F. Wetzerich the first J. W. thereof.

At the installation communication, held December 28, 1868, this dispensation was returned and a petition for charter, bearing the same signatures, presented to the Grand Lodge, which at once granted the prayer, and ordered the charter to issue, with the name George C. Whiting Lodge, No. 22, this name having been chosen after it was pointed out to the petitioners that the word "Washington," being already used in two local lodge designations, might operate to cause confusion. Before the final selection, however, other names were considered, the word "Analostan" having its advocates.

The signers of the two petitions, among whom it is perhaps worthy of note that not one came out of Potomac Lodge, were as follows: M. C. Causten, S. Norris Thorne, Geo. R. McKnight, F. W. Storch, S. B. Palmer, John H. Darne, Samuel C. Palmer, Caspar Mauman, V. Shinn, Geo. F. Wetzerich, A. Otis Houghton, Wilson N. Fuller, A. C. Prather, Robert Butler, John Q. Larman, James H. Ball, T. M. K. Mills, Bodisco Williams, and Henry A. Sylvester.

The formal institution of the new lodge, the twin of Anacostia, No. 21, the dates of both dispensations and petitions for charter coinciding, took place January 14, 1869.

George C. Whiting, while drawing from the same field as Potomac, has always had the most amicable relations therewith, and for its entire life has been a joint occupant of the same lodge room. Altho the field divided between them has been somewhat restricted both of these Georgetown lodges have enjoyed a healthy average growth, the latest roster of No. 22 containing 272 names.

That the lodge is not only an active and progressive member of the Masonic family but an unusually sociable one, is shown by the fact that for a period of years the annual recurrence of its birthday has been celebrated by an elaborate feast, to which the members and friends are invited to the capacity of the large banquet hall.

One Grand Master, Samuel C. Palmer, 1898, has claimed



*J. M. Yznaga.*

GRAND MASTER, 1887; GRAND HIGH PRIEST, 1885.



George C. Whiting as his lodge, but it is practically certain that in the year following this publication—1912—Ben W. Murch, the present Deputy, will receive his merited promotion and creditably fill the Grand East. Both of the above have also served in the several subordinate offices of the Grand Lodge.

The present list of Past Masters is as follows: Samuel C. Palmer, 72-73; Wm. H. Griffin, 80; Chas. Becker, 83-84; John C. Athey, 85; Henry C. Craig, 86-87; Wm. B. Easton, 88-89; Frank I. N. J. Tennyson, 90; Chauncey G. Graham, 91; Jas. T. Greaves, 94; Rezin W. Darby, 95; Walter T. Weaver, 97; Ben W. Murch, 98-99; Benj. F. Harper, 00; Harry Becker, 01; Wm. M. Bornheim, 02; E. Harry L. Myers, 03; Ammon H. Johnson, 04; Edward S. Smith, 05; Wm. H. Harrison, 06; Elbert W. R. Ewing, 07\*; David F. Dumberth, 07; Wm. A. Brodie, 08; Wm. F. Young, 09\*; Wm. E. Greaves, 09; Harry K. Pimber, 10.

Following are the officers for the centennial year:

Isaac B. Nordlinger, W. M.; Ernest H. Fowler, S. W., and Richard H. Young, J. W.

### PENTALPHA LODGE, NO. 23.

The first date appended to any paper relating to this lodge is that of January 11, 1869, which is found heading the original draft of the petition for the dispensation, in which, "for the convenience of our respective dwellings and other good reasons us thereunto moving," fifty-five worthy Master Masons requested Grand Master Donaldson to empower them to hold a regular lodge, to be known as Pentalpha.

The original word is "Capital," which is erased by line and the word "Pentalpha" interlined by pencil. According to the Historian of the lodge, Bro. Edward A. Keeler, a number of names were tentatively considered during the formative period including Capital, Capital City, Unity, Mt. Vernon, Fidelity, King Solomon, and Excelsior, and Capital was at first selected, but before the first meeting, February 10, 1869, was aban-



doned for that of Capital City, under which title said meeting was held, a vote of the lodge, however, the same evening, changing and settling the designation permanently to Pentalpha.

The word is that of the triple triangle or Pentalpha of Pythagoras, and is derived from the Greek *pente*, five, and *alpha*, the letter A, and refers to the fact that its configuration presents the form of that letter in five different positions. As a Masonic emblem it forms the outlines of the five-pointed star which is typical of the unseen bond that unites the whole Fraternity.

The petition was recommended by LaFayette Lodge, No. 19, and Washington Centennial Lodge, No. 14, both on February 4, 1869, and the prayer was granted by the Grand Master February 8, 1869, the first officers empowered to act being Joseph Daniels, W. M.; John W. Griffin, S. W., and Lewis G. Stephens, J. W.

At the semi-annual communication of the Grand Lodge, May 4, 1869, a petition for a charter was presented and granted for the formation of Pentalpha Lodge, No. 23. This petition carried fifty-seven signatures, and it is of interest to note that, both in the list appended to the petition for dispensation as well as that for charter, the autograph signature of James A. Garfield appears. The charter members follow: John W. Griffin, Lewis G. Stephens, Henry O. Hood, James C. Poynton, J. Daniels, Benj. W. Browne, John C. Stewart, J. P. Richardson, E. Warren Hale, H. O. Noyes, H. D. Barr, Henry T. Munson, Chas. H. Hall, Chas. C. Casey, J. O. P. Burnside, J. A. Duren, H. H. Day, H. C. Burr, N. P. Chipman, E. T. Bower, T. B. Amiss, J. G. Richards, James A. Garfield, Frank G. Daniels, Charles H. Dwinal, A. J. Bentley, Henry Clay McLean, O. W. Cooke, W. H. Whitney, J. N. Whitney, James E. Waugh, W. S. Roose, Wm. H. Barton, H. S. Washburn, E. F. M. Fachtz, M. E. N. Howell, J. F. Stock, James J. Barns, F. R. Griffith, E. W. W. Griffin, James S. Grinnell, D. T. Pierce, Jno. J. Knox, Ben. F. French, W. T. Turpin, Joseph Stephenson, W. T. Johnson, A. T. C. Dodge,

Charles E. Coon, N. O. Chapman, Chas. Warren, George W. Balloch, J. M. Mason, C. B. Blanchard, H. A. Higgins, Chas. W. Denison, and William R. Singleton.

On May 7 the formal institution took place, and thus was fairly started the career of this exceptionally progressive lodge, progressive in that it has taken the initiative in many concerted movements, charitable and general, prominent among these being the proposed Garfield Memorial Institute, which between 1882 and 1885 gave promise of success, but later languished, the funds, however, being diverted to the Masonic Home at Louisville, Ky.; the agitation in 1895 of the project of building a new temple, which antedated by two years the movement which finally bore fruit, and the launching of the successful enterprise of erecting a suitable monument to the memory of the late Grand Secretary, William R. Singleton. It has also been progressive numerically and now numbers 360.

A most excellent plan of building up a charity fund was adopted by this lodge January 1, 1879, whereby fifty per cent. of the net amount from fees for the degrees in excess of \$200 is set apart and securely invested for this purpose. This fund has now reached the handsome figure of \$10,317.84, and as an example of systematic benevolence is worthy of imitation.

On the evening of April 18, 1871, at a special meeting of this lodge, at which, according to the record, there were present "the largest number of brethren ever congregated in a subordinate lodge in this jurisdiction," the E. A. degree was conferred according to the English ritual, by W. Bro. Lord Tenderden, P. M. of Harmony Lodge, No. 255, Richmond, Surrey, England.

Our late lamented Brother James A. Garfield, as appears above, was a charter member of this lodge and a continuous and active member thereof until his death, which was especially mourned by the Masonic brethren of this jurisdiction, with whom he had been intimately associated. A suitable memorial pamphlet containing his Masonic career was published by the lodge in 1881, and is still available.

Ex-President Theodore Roosevelt is also borne on the rolls of the lodge as an honorary member.

The thirty-fifth anniversary of the institution was celebrated in 1904 in an elaborate manner, and the occasion given more than passing interest by the publication at that time of an interesting historical booklet from the pen of the Historian above referred to.

Pentalpha has furnished two Grand Masters to the jurisdiction: José M. Yznaga, 1887, and Matthew Trimble, 1897, while in the person of W. W. Jermane, the present S. G. D., the lodge has yet another candidate for that office. M. W. Bros. Yznaga and Trimble both served the Grand Lodge in the several subordinate Grand Lodge positions. In addition to the above, Wm. R. Singleton filled the office of Grand Secretary from 1876 to 1901, the longest official local Grand Lodge service.

The present list of Past Masters is as follows: Wm. H. Appleton, 76; Arthur A. Birney, 82; Calvin E. Town, 86; Jerome B. Burke, 87; John K. Robinson, 88; Wm. R. Bushby, 89; Wm. J. Naylor, 91; Harry W. Smith, 93; Geo. P. Davis, 94\*; Theo. B. Hibbs, 94\*; Samuel A. Hollingshead, 95; Jos. C. Johnson, 96; Harold A. Trembley, 97; Wm. J. Wallace, 99; Wm. A. Kimmel, 01, 04; Wilfred M. Barton, 02; Alex. Gordon, Jr., 03; Wm. W. Jermane, 05; Isaac B. Field, 06; Jacob W. Collins, 07; Harry McK. Luckett, 08; John H. Anderson, 09; Harry I. Cramer, 10\*; Castleman P. Boss, 10.

Following are the officers for the centennial year:

Horace S. Naylor, W. M.; D. Fulton Harris, S. W., and Paul Schureman, J. W.

#### \* STANSBURY LODGE, NO. 24.

Early in June, 1873, a request was made of M. W. Grand Master Charles F. Stansbury for a dispensation "to form a Masonic lodge at Brightwood, D. C., or within three miles thereof," to be known as Stansbury Lodge. The request was signed by the following-named: George W. Balloch, Benj.



**JACKSON AND PIERCE STREETS. ANACOSTIA, D. C.**

Home of Anacostia Lodge, No. 21, from 1890 to date.





M. Barker, E. J. Middleton, Jr., Marion Osborn, Benj. D. Carpenter, W. W. Cowling, Benj. W. Summy, B. D. Fabyan, and Fred. G. Rohr.

The dispensation was granted June 25, 1873, the Grand Master, however, deprecating the use of his name, on the ground that "only when a man has sealed his history in death can the space he occupied be truly measured and his virtues and failings fairly weighed."

At the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, November 12, 1873, a petition for charter in due form and signed by the same brethren as above, was presented, with the recommendation of Federal Lodge, No. 1, and, the prayer being granted, the charter was the same evening ordered to issue under the name of Stansbury Lodge, No. 24.

The officers U. D. and the first officers under the charter were: George W. Balloch, a distinguished Federal General of the Civil War, W. M.; B. D. Carpenter, S. W.; W. W. Cowling, J. W.; Benj. M. Barker, Secretary, and B. W. Summy, Treasurer. Of the charter members but two, B. W. Summy and Marion Osborn (the last named the first tiler), are living at the date of publication.

The lodge was formally instituted in Hiram Lodge room, December 23, 1873, but had occupied while U. D. and continued to occupy for a short time after receiving a charter an upper room in Brightwood Driving Park Inn.

While starting with barely a constitutional number of Masons to enable them to get a dispensation this lodge displayed at the very outset a most remarkably progressive spirit by commencing at once the erection of their present commodious building, at the corner of Georgia (then Brightwood) Avenue and Piney Branch Road, and pushing it with such celerity that five days after the date of their dispensation the Grand Lodge officiated at the laying of the cornerstone, and on February 26, 1874, dedicated the completed edifice, into which the lodge at once moved and has since remained.

In 1888 a substantial addition was made to the building, the expense of which was materially lightened by the proceeds of



a successful fair held in the old skating rink on E Street, N. W., under the auspices of the ladies interested in the membership, and it is proper to state in this connection that this lodge has been particularly fortunate in enlisting in its service a most efficient Ladies' Auxiliary, which is regularly organized and has been of great assistance, especially in enabling it to cultivate the social side of lodge life, a side, it may be remarked, not always given the importance it deserves.

When the little coterie of brethren formed this lodge Brightwood was far more isolated than at present, no street-car line being in existence in that section, the roads in bad condition, and the surrounding country sparsely settled, in striking contrast to the rapid-transit facilities of the present, and the almost continuous succession of city blocks rapidly reaching out to and threatening, in the very near future, to absorb this thriving village.

By the end of the year 1874 the membership had increased to twenty-six, and ten years later to fifty-one, since which time the growth has been very satisfactory, the last return footing up 240 members.

Stansbury has furnished one Grand Master to the jurisdiction, in the person of Frederick G. Alexander, who occupied that office in 1892, and who had also previously filled the several subordinate stations in the Grand Lodge.

The present list of Past Masters is as follows: Benj. W. Summy, 77; Benj. F. Martin, 79; Washington E. Nalley, 81; Henry Yost, Sr., 83; Frederick G. Alexander, 84-85, 87-88; Thos. M. F. Dowling, 86; John W. Ray, 89; Henry S. Lichau, 90; Thos. Calver, 92; Algernon R. McChesney, 95; Angus Lamond, 96; Geo. G. Pearson, 98; Henry Yost, Jr., 99; Wm. C. Bergmann, 01; Wm. W. Swart, 02; Arthur C. Shaw, 04; Herbert F. Ivers, 05; Harvey T. Rogers, 06; George H. Jones, 07; John R. McChesney, 08; George B. Heinecke, 09; Anthony Lehr, 10.

Following are the officers for the centennial year:

Clifford A. Borden, W. M.; William H. Fugett, S. W., and Philip F. Pollard, J. W.

## ARMINIUS LODGE, NO. 25.

A request for a dispensation to form a lodge, to be known as Arminius, was, under date of May 29, 1876, presented to Grand Master I. L. Johnson. Sixteen signatures were attached to the paper, which was in part as follows:

“Whereas, the benefits of Freemasonry are intended to be, and should always be, attainable to all good men without regard to language or nationality, and whereas, there are many Germans in this city prevented from partaking of those benefits by reason of an insufficient knowledge of the English language, we, the undersigned, Master Masons in good standing, pray for a dispensation empowering us to form, open, and hold a regular Masonic lodge (to be entitled Arminius Lodge, No. 25), to be conducted in the German language and in accordance with the Constitution, By-laws and Regulations of your Grand Lodge and the principles and usages of the Order.”

The Grand Master, however, was at first unwilling to grant the prayer, being in doubt as to the propriety of establishing such a lodge and the ability of the applicants to so translate the work as to do no violence to the prescribed ritual, and, indeed, refused to do so; but upon the petitioners obtaining a recommendation signed by sixty-eight members of the Grand Lodge, together with another from Washington Centennial Lodge, No. 14, dated June 15, 1876, he reconsidered his action, and granted the dispensation July 10 of the same year, in order to test the ability of the brethren and demonstrate the practicability and necessity of a lodge working in the German language.

All apprehension on this score was soon removed, the brethren at once satisfactorily proving their qualifications to conduct a lodge successfully and to confer in the German language the degrees according to the ritual, requirements, and usages of this jurisdiction, and accordingly when, at the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, November 8, 1876, a petition for charter was presented in regular form, it met with no

opposition and the charter was at once ordered to issue with the above title and with the names of Brothers Herman H. Gerdes, John C. Hesse, and Hugo Eichholtz as the first three officers, respectively.

In addition to the above-named, the charter members were as follows: John Bussius, A. H. Eichstadt, Herman Baumgarten, Frederick W. Spiess, R. G. Mauss, Aug. Henning, Charles Brandt, Henry Bonitz, John P. Hinkel, Charles Haerle, A. Michaelis, Henry T. Ries, Edward Droop, Reinhold Springsguth, and Ernest Ruppert.

The new lodge was constituted and consecrated in ample form on November 27, 1876, and has fully justified the wisdom of its creation. While its unique character has, of course, limited its field of action, the growth has been steady, and while never having risen to the dignity of being considered a large lodge, it still has at present the very comfortable number of 180 brethren on its rolls.

The Scottish Rite Cathedral was the home of No. 25 from its birth until 1909, when a move was made to their present quarters in Naval Lodge Room.

Arminius has not as yet achieved representation in the official line of the Grand Lodge.

The present list of Past Masters is as follows: Herman H. Gerdes, 76-77, 00-01; John C. Hesse, 78-79, 86; Louis Goldschmidt, 84, 91-92; Wm. F. Meyers, 96-98; Chas. Gersdorff, 02; Harry Rothschild, 03-05; Adam Schneider, 07; W. H. Berger, 08; John Wischhusen, 09.

Following are the officers for the centennial year:

John N. Sterzer, W. M.; Henry Sunwold, S. W., and George M. Siebert, J. W.

### OSIRIS LODGE, NO. 26.

With the exception of those located in the outlying sections of the city, the formation of which came about for purely geographical reasons, the majority of our lodges may trace their origin to the dissatisfaction of brethren with the con-

ditions in which they found themselves, and inasmuch as the birth of Osiris furnishes an example of this in a rather marked degree, the broad fact is stated for its historical importance, while the more or less unpleasant details are ignored.

The whole matter is admirably covered by the following extract from the address of Grand Master Sample, upon the occasion of the institution of this lodge:

Dissatisfaction with mode of government of both Church and State caused the peopling of this part of the new world by the Anglo-Saxon race; dissatisfaction with the mother country produced this grand Republic, and until the Almighty sends us the millenium, disagreements among the children of men will occur and progress usually result from them.

The several steps by which No. 26 came into being are as follows: Under date of January 9, 1890, thirty-seven Master Masons, thirty-four of whom were members of Washington Centennial Lodge, No. 14, applied to Grand Master James A. Sample for a dispensation to form a lodge at the "Masonic Hall" (Scottish Rite Cathedral), 1007 G Street, N. W., to be known as Osiris, and presented in support thereof the recommendation of Harmony Lodge, No. 17.

In compliance therewith the Grand Master issued the desired authorization on the 13th of the same month, and named Wm. Oscar Roome as W. M., L. Cabell Williamson as S. W., and Alonzo J. Marsh as J. W. Two days later the first meeting of the lodge was held.

As it was well known that the separation was due to dissatisfaction with the mother lodge, the Grand Master used every effort to heal the differences, and only issued the dispensation after satisfying himself that it was for the best interests of all concerned.

At the semi-annual communication of the Grand Lodge held May 14, 1890, a petition for charter, bearing date of May 7, was presented, and, in spite of a formal protest from No. 14, supported by addresses in which it was asserted that the movement was designed to "cripple, injure, and in a measure destroy the usefulness" of the latter lodge, the prayer

was granted, and the charter ordered to issue the same evening to Osiris Lodge, No. 26.

The list of signers of the second petition, nearly identical with that of the first, is as follows: Wm. Oscar Roome, L. Cabell Williamson, Alonzo J. Marsh, Joseph P. Herman, Benjamin Salomon, Samuel Herman, Jr., Alfred Moore Lambeth, William Van Vleck, Fred Elmer Tasker, Meyer Herman, Geo. H. Bailey, Josiah B. Perry, Leroy M. Taylor, L. M. Taylor, Jr., Wm. H. Barstow, William Frederick, Alexander R. Williams, E. B. Kellogg, Wm. G. Burns, R. W. Stevens, T. J. Edwards, Joseph C. Taylor, Calvin Farnsworth, Henry White, F. M. Draney, W. C. Kimpton, Charles W. Keese, Sam'l Herman, Sr., Henry H. Jacobs, Jos. H. Hunter, Henry C. Jones, A. Jay Marsh, Willis L. Moore, J. Sondheimer, S. Sugenheimer, Allen Wall, Benjamin W. Green, Edward Roome, Charles A. Riddle, David Strauss, Albert Herman, and David Jackson.

The lodge was constituted May 21, 1890, and the occasion gained added interest from the fact that a committee from Washington Centennial was present to formally withdraw the protest of that lodge, to pledge their respect, consideration, brotherly love, and encouragement to the new member of the family, and to present, on behalf of No. 14 a beautiful floral tribute. These overtures, it is needless to say, were met in the same spirit, and thus happily ended a short-lived season of strained relations.

Born under these somewhat turbulent conditions, the lodge soon made for itself an influential place in the sisterhood of lodges, and while as yet it has not attained to great numerical strength, has shown a satisfactory growth, the present roster containing 231 names.

With the exception of a brief period when the lodge met in Naval Lodge Hall, the home of Osiris was in the Scottish Rite Cathedral, on G Street, N. W., until removal to the new Temple.

The official Grand Lodge representation of No. 26 has thus far been confined to one person, L. Cabell Williamson, who, as



a member of No. 14, served as J. G. W. in 1890, and, as of 26, filled successively the stations of S. G. W., D. G. M., and Grand Master, the latter in 1893.

The present list of Past Masters is as follows: L. Cabell Williamson, 90\*; Wm. Oscar Roome, 90; Fred E. Tasker, 91; Jas. A. Sample, 95†; Jos. Schiffman, 95\*; Chas. S. Hyer, 96; Wm. L. Boyden, 97; Frank A. Harrison, 98; C. Howard Buckler, 99; Wm. H. De Shields, 00; Stuart M. Leitzell, 02; Sol Herzog, 03; Wm. Montgomery, 04; Thos. H. Unsworth, 05; Sydney R. Jacobs, 06; Wm. H. Landvoigt, 07; Charles M. Jones, 08\*; Wm. V. Lewis, 08; Carey S. Frye, 09; Julius Reis, 10.

Following are the officers for the centennial year:

George W. Ingham, W. M.; Philip M. Ashford, S. W., and Harry L. Parkinson, J. W.

### MYRON M. PARKER LODGE, NO. 27.

The rapid development of the northeastern section of the city, together with the inadequate street-car facilities of the period, led a number of the Masonic brethren residing there to take steps, in 1891, to form a lodge "convenient to their residences."

Accordingly, at an informal meeting held March 9 of that year, a tentative organization was effected, and a petition for dispensation in regular form drawn up bearing the signatures of thirty-two Master Masons and requesting authority to form a new lodge "at or near the intersection of Third and H Streets, N. E.," to be known as Myron M. Parker Lodge, the moral character and Masonic ability of the petitioners being vouched for by Federal Lodge, No. 1, under date of March 10, 1891, with the recommendation that the prayer be granted.

On March 12, 1891, Grand Master Thomas F. Gibbs issued the desired dispensation, and, upon the recommendation of the applicants, appointed J. Eldridge Burns to be the first Master,



A. K. Lind to be the first Senior Warden, and V. A. Hubbard to be the first Junior Warden.

While an informal meeting was held March 13, the first stated communication did not occur until March 25, 1891.

At the meeting of the Grand Lodge May 13, 1891, the dispensation was returned, and a petition for charter presented, nominating the same officers as before and bearing the following names: J. Eldridge Burns, A. K. Lind, V. A. Hubbard, John A. Moyer, Thomas A. Perry, Francis E. Camp, David Heiser, Eli M. Wheat, George Hunter, J. G. Forney, Wm. T. Bowdler, Jas McCandlish, Joe W. King, Winfield F. Works, E. J. Handly, H. N. Steele, J. W. Aregood, T. J. Pettigrew, George Stambaugh, G. C. Burton, D. R. Johnson, S. S. Galliher, P. B. Dickerson, Geo. W. Carr, Walton J. Brooks, Jos. C. Kauffman, Geo. F. W. Strieby, J. E. Nichol, T. B. Crisp, J. H. Peake, L. D. Walter, G. Y. Hansell, H. E. Kottmer, and John F. McAllister.

The transactions of the lodge while U. D. appearing to have been regular and in accordance with the Constitution of the Grand Lodge, the request was granted, and a charter ordered to issue to Myron M. Parker Lodge, No. 27.

The new lodge was consecrated, dedicated, and instituted according to the ancient forms and ceremonies May 21, 1891, in the building at the southwest corner of Third and H Streets, N. E., which was its home until March 22, 1893, when the Grand Lodge dedicated its second meeting place at the corner of Eighth and I Streets, N. E. Four years later the third move was made to the lodge room in the building on H near Twelfth Streets, N. E., which latter room was formally dedicated March 16, 1897.

In October, 1908, a site, 54 by 110 feet, was purchased on the east side of Eighth, between E and F Streets, N. E. By the spring of 1910 this site was free of encumbrance, and steps were at once taken looking to the erection of a building. The proposed structure shows a frontage of fifty-four feet and a depth of approximately eighty feet, the latter half of the depth being somewhat narrowed to permit of necessary light



JESSE W. LEE, JR.,  
GRAND MASTER, 1888.



and ventilation. The basement is designed to be so fitted as to be a source of revenue; the first floor will be taken up by an entertainment hall, fitted with stage and accessories; the second floor will contain two lodge rooms, approximating 30 by 40 feet each, for miscellaneous societies and orders, while the third floor will be devoted to a large lodge room, committee rooms, and banquet hall. The plans insure a building that, while plain, will be sufficiently ornamented to give a neat and attractive effect, and will, to use the much-abused phrase, "fill a long-felt want."

The history of the lodge has been one of harmony and prosperity and the growth all that could be desired, the latest return showing 241 names on the roster.

Myron M. Parker Lodge has as yet supplied no officer to the Grand Lodge line.

The present list of Past Masters is as follows: Jos. C. Kauffman, 91\*; J. Eldridge Burns, 91; Andrew K. Lind, 92; Addison S. Helton, 93\*; Zachary T. Jenkins, 95; Benj. P. Entrikin, 97\*; Hirah F. Olmsted, 97\*; Michael Schuster, 97; Wm. A. Moore, 00\*; John A. Moyer, 00; Thos. B. Crisp, 01; Wilburn R. Carver, 02; Robert I. Carr, 03; Wm. G. Glenn, 04; Chas. F. Whitney, 05; Benj. J. Wrightsman, 06; Ralph W. Bowen, 07; Edw. H. Tompkins, 08; Samuel F. Compton, 09; Jos. W. King, 10\*; Wm. H. Gibson, 10.

Following are the officers for the centennial year:

Arthur Carr, W. M.; Lucian T. Williams, S. W., and Frank W. Groh, J. W.

#### KING DAVID LODGE, NO. 28.

In 1893 the suburb of Brookland, D. C., which had but lately come into existence but had already assumed fair proportions, became the home of a new lodge, Grand Master L. Cabell Williamson, on September 22 of that year, upon the recommendation of Myron M. Parker Lodge, No. 27, granting a dispensation to fifteen Master Masons to form a lodge in that section, to be known as King David Lodge, and by the same instrument appointing Thos. G. Carmick to be the first

Master, George F. Erdman to be the first Senior Warden, and William H. Stalee to be the first Junior Warden.

On the 8th day of November, 1893, at the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, upon proper application, a charter was ordered to issue to King David Lodge, No. 28, to hold its meetings in Brookland, D. C., and on December 5, 1893, the Grand Master, assisted by the other officers of the Grand Lodge, constituted the new lodge and installed the officers, after which, according to the official account of the affair, the Grand Lodge, members of King David Lodge, and a very large assembly of brethren, were entertained by the ladies of Brookland with an "elaborate banquet, which had been most elegantly and profusely prepared by them," &c.

But twelve names appear on the petition for charter and are as follows: Thomas G. Carmick, George F. Erdman, William H. Stalee, Hiram J. Penrod, J. L. Sherwood, John B. Lord, William S. Daniels, Christian H. Etz, Philip W. Roth, Arthur F. Kinnan, Peter H. Johnston, and Joseph Phillips.

The roster of officers December 9, 1893, was as follows: The first three officers as above; C. H. Etz, Secretary; John B. Lord, Treasurer; J. L. Sherwood, S. D.; H. J. Penrod, J. D.; A. F. Kinnan, S. S.; Wm. S. Daniels, J. S.; Peter H. Johnston, Tiler, and Joseph Phillips, Marshal.

By special permission of the Grand Lodge, the new lodge has held its meetings since organization in the Town Hall of Brookland, but through the generosity of Bro. John B. Lord, Treasurer and Trustee, and who in 1909 celebrated his fiftieth anniversary as a Master Mason, has acquired an attractive site at the corner of Twelfth and Monroe Streets, on which plans are now being perfected to erect a handsome Masonic edifice of three stories, the first to be occupied by store-rooms, the second by an entertainment hall, and the third to be used for lodge purposes.

While still, by reason of its youth and limited territory, one of the smaller lodges, the latest returns showing 148 members, it is progressive to a degree and bids fair to gain rapidly, both in influence and numerical strength.

King David has not as yet had representation in the Grand East, but that honor will, in all probability, come to it in the very near future by the elevation of W. Bro. Charles E. Baldwin, the present S. G. W., who has successively filled the various subordinate chairs of the Grand Lodge.

The present list of Past Masters is as follows: Thomas H. Young, 94†; J. Lewis Sherwood, 96; Chas. E. Baldwin, 98; Wm. P. Armstrong, 99; Moses D. Mull, 00; Guy W. A. Camp, 01; Millard J. Holmes, 03; Jas. W. Pike, 04\*; Daniel G. Davis, 04; John C. Schooley, 05\*; Ebenezer Southall, 05; Marvin M. McLean, 06; Rufus A. Crenshaw, 07; Charles E. Molster, 08; Wm. H. McCray, 09; Wm. O. Firoved, 10.

Following are the officers for the centennial year:

Isaac S. Pennybacker, W. M.; William C. Parry, S. W., and Laird L. Neal, J. W.

#### TAKOMA LODGE, NO. 29.

Takoma Park, one of the most thriving and beautiful suburbs of Washington, became the seat of a Masonic Lodge in 1894.

In the fall of that year twenty-five "Free and Accepted Master Masons," in a petition bearing date of September 24, 1894, applied to Grand Master Henry S. Merrill for letters of dispensation to empower them to assemble as a regular lodge, to be known as Takoma Lodge, with their home in Takoma Park, D. C.

The petition, which was accompanied by the usual recommendation from Stansbury Lodge, No. 24, was held in abeyance by the Grand Master until the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, November 14, 1894, when it was laid before that body, an unusual tho not wholly unprecedented method of procedure.

The Grand Lodge at once requested the Grand Master to grant the prayer and also gave the new lodge permission to occupy the same room with Takoma Lodge, No. 24, I. O. O. F., and it is perhaps worthy of note, in passing, that this action



was subsequently acknowledged by the latter organization in a letter of thanks.

In accordance, therefore, with the mandate of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master, under date of November 19, 1894, issued a dispensation to Takoma Lodge, and, complying with the wishes of the petitioners, authorized Robert W. Best to act as the first Master, Theodore Frieбус, Jr., as the first Senior Warden, and Wilmer G. Platt as the first Junior Warden.

At the semi-annual communication held May 8, 1895, a petition for charter was presented, and the same being accompanied by a very flattering report from the Grand Secretary relative to the proceedings of the Lodge U. D., a charter was ordered to issue the same evening to Takoma Lodge, No. 29, the first three officers nominated being Wilmer G. Platt, W. M.; Francis J. Woodman, S. W., and Theodore F. Willis, J. W.

Following is a list of the charter members, differing substantially from the first list, tho containing the same number of signers: Robert Williams Best, Thomas Fayette Miller, Wilmer George Platt, Francis Joseph Woodman, Horace James Long, Charles Morrell Heaton, Jr., Theodore Frieбус, Edgar James Perry, Miletus J. Wine, Frederick John Lung, Herbert Martin Camp, Harrison M. Bennett, George H. Bailey, William H. Pope, Benjamin G. Cowl, Theodore F. Willis, F. W. Longley, Lewis Freeman Dudley, James Cline Depue, William Alvey, Theodore Frieбус, Jr., O. D. Summy, E. S. Carroll, Samuel S. Shedd, and Charles John Dietz.

The lodge was formally constituted and the hall dedicated May 14, 1895.

Permission to remain as co-tenants with the lodge of Odd Fellows before mentioned being given, this building, the general hall of the village, has since continued to be the home of No. 29, the lodge in the spring of 1909 purchasing the property and extensively improving it.

While necessarily still one of the smaller lodges, it has ever been a popular one, and its growth steady and legitimate, the latest roster crediting it with 97 members.



**HARRISON DINGMAN,**  
GRAND MASTER, 1889; GRAND HIGH PRIEST, 1893; GRAND  
COMMANDER, K. T., 1900.



Takoma Lodge, altho very young, has already supplied the jurisdiction with a Grand Master, Francis J. Woodman, Past Master of that lodge, presiding over the deliberations of the Grand Lodge in 1907, after having previously filled the several subordinate places in the line.

The present list of Past Masters is as follows: Wilmer G. Platt, 05; Thomas M. F. Dowling, 96†; William H. Douglas, 96†; Francis J. Woodman, 96; Theo. F. Willis, 97; Matthew Trimble, 98†; Harrison M. Bennett, 99; Orlando D. Summy, 01; James A. Wetmore, 03†; William Hart Dexter, 03†; Otis J. Eddy, 03; Wm. T. Andrews, 04; William Mehn, 05; George W. Lewton, 05\*; George L. Tarbell, 06; Charles E. Thatcher, 07; Alfred D. Smith, 08; Schuyler S. Symons, 09; Hervey S. Knight, 10.

Following are the officers for the centennial year:

William E. Dyre, W. M.; Joseph B. Simpson, S. W., and Howard Fisk, J. W.

#### WILLIAM R. SINGLETON LODGE NO. 30.

In 1901 another outpost was established on our frontier by the formation of a lodge at Tenley, D. C., a growing settlement in the extreme northern part of the District.

In response to an application dated March 30th of that year and signed by thirty-five Master Masons, whose moral character and Masonic ability were vouched for by Potomac Lodge, No. 5, Grand Master Harry Standiford, on April 2, 1901, granted a dispensation to establish a new lodge at the above place, to be known as William R. Singleton Lodge, U. D., and authorized and empowered Frank H. Thomas to act as Worshipful Master, Isaac E. Shoemaker as S. W., and Samuel O. Wendel as J. W.

On May 8, 1901, a petition in due form being presented, the Grand Lodge ordered a charter to issue, with the name William R. Singleton Lodge, No. 30. Following is the list of charter members: Wm. L. Conley, Frank H. Thomas, David Currier, James Sharp, McGill Grove, Thos. J. Giles, Eli Riley, Geo. W. Neale, Chas. C. Pearce, N. W. Chappell, William A.

Trigg, John H. Wendel, T. F. Riley, Andrew Burga, John W. Chappell, Frederick F. Robey, Thomas M. Bowling, Anthony M. Ray, Alex. J. Yowell, Frederick J. Heider, Samuel O. Wendel, Frank O. McNew, W. B. Ireland, H. M. Smith, I. E. Shoemaker, James L. Giles, Wm. E. Bell, Chas. A. Becker, M. C. Weaver, Alfred M. Lambeth, Richard E. Cozzens, Philip Young, James H. Taylor, H. E. Corning, and G. C. F. Bratenahl.

On May 28, 1901, the Grand Lodge repaired to Tenleytown and dedicated the hall of meeting, constituted the lodge, and installed the officers, these events being followed by a banquet and the expression of the felicitations of the visiting friends on the auspicious opening of the career of the new lodge, this good feeling taking substantial character in the presentation by St. John's Lodge of a beautiful charter case of metal taken from a Spanish battleship destroyed at Santiago.

The selection of the name was a happy one, and will serve to perpetuate the memory of our late Brother William Reynolds Singleton, Masonic writer of international repute, and many years Secretary of this Grand Lodge.

The field in which this lodge works being perhaps more restricted than any other in the jurisdiction, it naturally followed that after reaching a certain point there has not been a large increase in membership; but there has been no retrograde movement, and the lodge is to be congratulated on its success, the latest roster footing 81 names.

From its organization until March 1, 1909, the lodge occupied a two-story building on the west side of Wisconsin Avenue, Tenleytown, D. C., opposite the present hall, the cornerstone of which was laid November 19, 1908.

Representation in the Grand line has not yet come to this lodge.

The present list of Past Masters is as follows: Isaac E. Shoemaker, 03; Samuel O. Wendel, 04; Frederick F. Robey, 05; Thos. M. Bowling, 06; Fred. J. Heider, 07; Curtis M. Smith, 08; James H. Robey, 09; Frederick W. Parks, 10.

Following are the officers for the centennial year:

Edward N. Riley, W. M.; George Walker, S. W., and S. McComas Hawken, J. W.

### KING SOLOMON LODGE NO. 31.

On April 6, 1905, a request for a dispensation to form a lodge to be known as King Solomon Lodge, "to be held at Washington during the daytime," and carrying the recommendation of Osiris Lodge, No. 26, was presented to Grand Master Lurtin R. Ginn, who granted the request the following day, and at the same time appointed Wm. H. Singleton as Master, Joseph L. Atkins as S. W., and Philander C. Johnson as J. W.

In addition to the above the names appearing as signers of the petition were: Hamilton Adams, Jewell H. Aubere, William Levering Devries, Weston Flint, Austin Elmer Heiss, D. Percy Hickling, Lorenzo C. Hover, Christopher T. Hutchinson, John E. Jones, Alfred M. Lambeth, P. M.; John D. La Mothe, P. M.; Frank S. Lerch, Joseph E. Luckett, J. Barton Miller, Thomas C. Noyes, William S. Odell, August Peterson, Charles E. Sayles, Charles Scherer, William Scherer, Parker H. Sweet, Jr., Elkanah N. Waters, and William H. Wunder.

On May 10 of the same year the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia granted a charter to the lodge thus formed, under the name of King Solomon Lodge, No. 31, F. A. A. M., and on May 25 the lodge was instituted in the lodge room at Scottish Rite Cathedral, 1007 G Street, N. W., with the following officers in the various stations: Master, William H. Singleton; Senior Warden, Joseph L. Atkins; Junior Warden, Philander C. Johnson; Secretary, Parker H. Sweet, Jr.; Treasurer, A. M. Lambeth; Senior Deacon, Charles Scherer; Junior Deacon, William H. Wunder; Senior Steward, John E. Jones; Junior Steward, Frank S. Lerch; Tiler, J. H. Trimble.

During the formative period of the lodge a number of names were under consideration, among them being McKin-



ley, Meridian, Daylight, Abrac (The Lost Word), and King Solomon. This latter was also the name selected by certain petitioners for a charter in 1864 whose application met with refusal by the Grand Lodge.

King Solomon Lodge, No. 31, is unique in that it is the only Masonic lodge in the District of Columbia that meets in daytime. There are but six daylight lodges in the United States, the others being located in New York City, Chicago, St. Louis, Louisville, and Richmond. Designed for the convenience of newspaper men and other night workers it at once became popular and by September 30, 1905, had increased its membership fifty per cent., and has since maintained a satisfactory growth, now carrying 60 names on its rolls.

This lodge met at the place of its institution until the completion of the new Temple, when it found quarters there. The gavel falls at 1 P. M. of the first Wednesday in each month.

No. 31 is as yet too young to have attained place in the official line of the Grand Lodge.

The present list of Past Masters is as follows: Lurtin R. Ginn, 05†; Wm. H. Singleton, 05; Jos. L. Atkins, 06; Charles Scherer, 07; Wm. H. Wunder, 08; Charles E. Sayles, 09; John Lane Johns, 10.

Following are the officers of the centennial year:

Martin L. Statler, W. M.; Delos W. Thayer, S. W., and Bert V. Wolfe, J. W.

#### TEMPLE LODGE, NO. 32.

This young member of the local Masonic family, coming into existence in 1907, at a time when the new Temple was well under way, and owing its formation in some measure, at least, to the increased activity in Masonic circles traceable to that enterprise, is most appropriately named.

Grand Master Francis J. Woodman on October 12, 1907, in response to a numerously signed petition, recommended by Harmony Lodge, No. 17, granted a dispensation for the



HOME OF WM. R. SINGLETON LODGE, NO. 30, TENLEY, D. C.



HOME OF STANSBURY LODGE, NO. 24, BRIGHTWOOD, D. C.



formation of a lodge to be known as Temple Lodge, U. D., and at the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, upon proper application, this action was ratified by a charter being issued to the new lodge with the number 32.

The officers named in the several petitions and accepted as such were: Thomas C. Noyes, Master; Louis C. Wilson, S. W.; and John Paul Earnest, J. W.

The membership roll of the Lodge October 30, 1907, follows: Thomas C. Noyes, Master; Louis C. Wilson, P. M., Senior Warden; John Paul Earnest, Junior Warden; Louis A. Dent, Acting Secretary; E. Southard Parker, P. M., Acting Treasurer; Charles E. Berry, Clifford K. Berryman, P. M.; James O. Breast, Merritt O. Chance, Price C. Claflin, Fred G. Coldren, Joseph H. Cranford, Joseph H. Curran, Thaddeus C. Dulin, Daniel W. Edelin, John O. Evans, Percy S. Foster, Williams C. Fox, Daniel Fraser, Robert T. Frazier, Harry Giovannoli, Edwin S. Graham, Benjamin W. Guy, Willard F. Hallam, Henry G. Hanford, George W. Harris, Leroy W. Herron, John G. Hodges, Clement W. Huske, Harvey S. Irwin, John Edward Jenks, Philander C. Johnson, John E. Jones, Carter B. Keene, J. Thomas Kelley, Jr.; W. Seton Kent, Charles E. Kern, Stirling Kerr, Jr.; Claude F. King, P. M.; Richard Kingsman, Walter H. Klopfer, D. Olin Leech, William Clifford Long, Edwin S. Lothrop, Joseph E. Luckett, Thomas I. Luckett, Alexander McKenzie, S. G. S.; Fred E. Mann, Edwin S. Marlow, Addis D. Merritt, P. M.; Frank P. Milburn, George W. Miller, Benjamin S. Minor, Henry B. Mirick, John Mitchell, Jr., J. Gales Moore, John B. Morrey, Irving C. Norwood, Francis Nye, P. M.; Deruelle S. Porter, John L. Prorise, William H. Rapley, William F. Roberts, Charles C. Rogers, William Scherer, Francis A. Sebring, P. M.; Franc E. Sheiry, P. M.; Lindley E. Smith, Bartholomew F. Smith, Edward H. Snyder, William M. Steuart, Harry C. C. Stiles, Isaac S. Stone, James E. Stuart, John E. Taylor, Lewis L. Thompson, J. Frank Trazzare, Matthew Trimble, P. G. M.; Hylas T. Wheeler, P. M.; Charles E. Wood, Waddy B. Wood, and Elliott Woods.

Honorary contributing members—Charles E. Baldwin,

J. G. D.; Noel W. Barksdale, P. M.; Joseph H. Bradley, Walter A. Brown, P. G. M.; Jacob W. Collins, M.; Augustus B. Coolidge, D. G. M.; Ernest H. Daniel, P. M.; Harrison Dingman, P. G. M.; Roe Fulkerson, Lurtin R. Ginn, P. G. M.; Alexander Grant, J. G. S.; Benjamin S. Graves, P. M.; William F. Gude, P. M.; William G. Henderson, P. G. M.; William W. Jermane, P. M.; Arthur D. Marks, Joseph H. Milans, P. M.; Thomas P. Morgan, P. M.; James A. Sample, P. G. M.; Henry K. Simpson, S. G. W.; J. Henry Small, Jr., P. G. M.; John Speed Smith, G. P.; Harry Standiford, P. G. M.; Lem Towers, Jr., M.; Frank R. Underwood, M., and J. Louis Willige, Jr., P. M.

Temple Lodge, U. D., held its first meeting October 27, 1907, on which occasion nearly all of the approximately 100 members were present, and was formally instituted as No. 32 December 26, 1907.

The lodge was formed with purposes claimed to be in advance of the present methods of conducting a Masonic Lodge, and in pursuance of this departure at once placed the initiation fee at \$100 and the dues at \$20, both figures largely in excess of the prevailing custom. In outline, it was proposed to form a lodge with a membership small enough to permit a close acquaintance among those who join it, as many lodges in the District are acknowledged to be so large in membership as to make it practically impossible to accomplish that end. It was also proposed to fix the amount of dues high enough to have the lodge fully supported from that source without the necessity of having initiation fees to make up a deficit, which has been regarded as an undesirable condition that generally exists in other lodges. "Temple Lodge intends to demonstrate," it is declared in the statement of the objects and purposes of the new lodge, "that a lodge can be made up, can thrive, can do good work, can give expression to the very highest and best of Masonic principles, and can foster the true Masonic fellowship among its members without low dues or large membership."

The venture may now be considered as well beyond the experimental stage, and has amply justified the theories and



hopes of its founders, the latest roster showing a total of 96 names. \*

While yet too young to have acquired place in the official line of the Grand Lodge, there are many brethren on its honorary roll who have served therein with distinction.

The present list of Past Masters is as follows: Matthew Trimble, 07\*; Alexander McKenzie, 07\*; Francis A. Sebring, 07\*; Claude F. King, 07\*; Clifford K. Berryman, 07\*; Hylas T. Wheeler, 07\*; E. Southard Parker, 07\*; Francis Nye, 07\*; Addis D. Merritt, 07\*; Franc E. Sheiry, 07\*; Louis C. Wilson, 07\*.

Following are the officers for the centennial year:

Carter B. Keene, W. M.; Sterling Kerr, Jr., S. W., and LeRoy W. Herron, J. W.

### MT. PLEASANT LODGE, NO. 33.

The remarkable growth of the City of Washington having in the first decade of the twentieth century brought into existence a large and thickly populated section in the northwest, formerly suburban, an absolutely new and unbroken Masonic territory was thereby developed, and the recognition of this fact led to the presentation, at the Annual Communication held December 21, 1910, of a petition, recommended by Stansbury Lodge, No. 24, and signed by sixty-five brethren, to open and hold a lodge in the northwestern section of the city to be known as Mt. Pleasant Lodge, No. 33, and nominating Bro. Richard C. Lewis, P. M., as W. M.; Bro. Charles H. Bradley as S. W., and Bro. Edwin Allen Swingle as J. W.

The petition was unanimously granted the same evening and a charter ordered to issue as requested.

Thus, under most auspicious and promising circumstances, came into being a lodge for which there is every reason to predict a prosperous future.

The meeting nights are the first and third Mondays of each month, and the present location in the vicinity of Fourteenth Street and Park Road, Northwest, pending building operations in the near future.



The charter list is as follows: W. W. Adams, Howard S. Austin, E. L. Beech, Wm. A. Bennett, Jackson F. Blair, F. W. Bolgiano, Chas. H. Bradley, Edw. S. Brashears, Frank W. Carden, James W. Cheney, G. B. Chipman, Jos. R. Costinett, Harry B. Cramer, C. E. Crump, Chas. F. Cummins, Harry A. Cummins, G. Frank Day, Charles Diedel, Henry W. Draper, Charles Drexilious, Rev. Geo. F. Dudley, Geo. J. Efferen, Henry B. Elliott, Guy Ervin, Henry Evans, Wm. G. Gentner, Wm. B. Green, W. T. Hackett, Edw. Hammond, Wilbur S. Haver, S. V. Hopping, Edw. S. Huguely, Geo. W. Huguely, Harry C. James, Chas. A. Jaquette, James Kane, Wm. Herbert Keen, Thomas W. Keller, Charles H. Korts, Richard C. Lewis, C. S. Mackenzie, Geo. H. Markwood, Chas. W. Moore, H. G. McLean, Edwin A. Newman, J. Wm. Palmer, D. G. Pfeiffer, Edwin Potbury, W. W. Poultney, Levin B. Price, Edwin E. Putnam, Jno. F. Putnam, Jr., M. B. Richmond, Wilbur H. Rock, Geo. C. Ross, Charles Sonne, Edwin A. Swingle, R. W. Talbott, Miles Taylor, John W. Ward, Thos. F. Warren, Denwood S. White, D. Elmer Wiber, Judson J. Withall, Geo. H. H. Zellers.

#### UNION LODGE, U. D. (ALEXANDRIA, VA.).

The history of this lodge, which operated from February 22, 1862, to December 27, 1864, under renewed dispensations from the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, constitutes a most interesting episode of the "Late Unpleasantness," and is set out in detail in Chapter IX.

#### MILITARY LODGES, U. D.

It is a matter of record that quite a number of military organizations during the War of the Rebellion carried in their midst traveling or Army Lodges, working under dispensations from various Grand Lodges, and this was not considered an infraction of jurisdiction, but, on the contrary, was encouraged by our own Grand Lodge, which also early authorized the Grand Master to issue similar dispensations

upon application. In accordance therewith dispensations were issued as follows:

May 16, 1861, to Marshall Lefferts, Colonel of the 7th Regt. National Guard of the State of New York, and seventy-two members of that regiment, to hold a camp lodge to be known as "National Guard Lodge."

September 24, 1861, to Colonel Horatio G. Sickel and ten other brethren of the 3d Regt. Penn. Res. Corps, to be known as "The Potomac Lodge."

January 14, 1862, to Colonel Wm. Linn Tidball and a constitutional number of brethren of the 59th Regt. N. Y. S. V., with the designation "Good Hope Lodge."

Early in 1863, to a number of brethren to hold a camp lodge within the 3d Brig., 1st Div., 5th A. C., Army of the Potomac, to be called the "Lodge of the Union."

These were looked upon as emergent lodges, and were not held to the usual strict accountability in the matter of returns, and as a consequence the existing data in reference to them is very meager.

### LODGE OF MUTUAL BENEVOLENCE.

On November 1, 1859, the Grand Lodge granted a charter for the formation of a lodge to be known as the "Lodge of Mutual Benevolence," with S. T. Shugert, E. L. Stevens, and A. G. Fowler as Master, S. W., and J. W., respectively. This lodge was designed for systematic relief work, after the general plan afterward developed by the Masonic Board of Relief, but failing to enlist the active coöperation of all the lodges surrendered its charter December 27, 1861. No number having been given, its demise left no break in the numerical sequence of the chartered lodges.

## CHAPTER XVI.

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### BENEVOLENCES.

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THE SUBJECT IN GENERAL—EARLY METHODS—THE MASONIC  
MUTUAL RELIEF ASSOCIATION—ST. JOHN'S MITE ASSO-  
CIATION—THE MASONIC BOARD OF RELIEF—THE  
MASONIC AND EASTERN STAR HOME.

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*"But the greatest of these is Charity."*

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SYSTEMATIC BENEVOLENCE within the Fraternity is of comparatively recent origin, and is the natural and logical outgrowth of the greatly changed and enlarged conditions within and without the body of Masonry since the early days of the nineteenth century. During the period preceding the formation of the Grand Lodge and for a number of years thereafter, the City of Washington being a collection of widely scattered settlements with inadequate means of satisfactory intercommunication it necessarily followed that the several lodges had each its more or less well defined zone of influence within which its charitable activities were concentrated. Through the gradual expansion and overlapping of these several territories and the consequent closer touch of the lodges with each other came ultimately the necessity for coöperation and system, and while by reason of that system detailed reports of expenditures for relief have for a number of years been annually published, in striking contrast to the entire absence of such reports at an earlier period, it must not be inferred therefrom that our predecessors were not active and liberal along

this line. Indeed evidence is not wanting to indicate that from the very nature of existing conditions this work appealed more strongly to the individual Mason than now. Charity was a personal obligation, not to be comfortably and easily delegated to this or that organization. It is of record in the earlier lodges that the matter of the education of the children of deceased Master Masons was never neglected, and this, being before the era of free schools, sometimes constituted quite a drain upon the meager resources of the lodges and individuals, but was never evaded or scaled. Then, too, this education was not always confined to the ordinary rudiments, but in cases of apparent talent was carried along special lines, thereby thoroughly equipping the young for the battle of life, and there lies upon the desk of the author at this moment corroboration of this in the case of a young orphan girl in the care of Naval Lodge, whose tuition for lessons on the "piano-forte" was a regular appropriation for a long period. The widows were frequently helped in a practical way, where the case seemed to warrant it, by being set up comfortably in some business, and these items, frequently running into the hundreds of dollars, were cheerfully met, more often than otherwise, by individual subscription. A distressed brother had but to appear as such, no matter where he hailed from, and relief by the same means would be accorded him.

Nor was their charity narrow. No case of want within their knowledge failed to awaken sympathy and loosen their lightly-tied purse strings, and it was a frequent occurrence for the various early lodges to form a procession of the brethren and the orphan children of some asylum, and, after an extensive parade, take up a collection for the benefit of said institution, and the sums realized thus, when the limited number of contributors is considered, is nothing short of astounding.

It was the age of individual obligation and effort, and while in the process of evolution new, and at the same time thoroughly adequate methods, have come into being and are nobly carrying on the work, the tribute of our respect must be laid at the feet of these pioneers who wrought to the full measure

of their opportunities and blazed the way along which the Fraternity have come to a ripened career of usefulness.

Perhaps the earliest evidence of organized effort is given by the records of Naval Lodge, in 1828, in which year a so-called beneficial association within the lodge, especially designed for the relief of sick brethren, was started, and while encountering some opposition in the Grand Lodge was not actually prohibited by that body, and flourished for at least thirty years, apparently accomplishing much good.

By the middle of the century the pressing need of system and coöperation led to the formation of the "Lodge of Mutual Benevolence," to which the Grand Lodge granted a charter November 1, 1859. This lodge was designed to establish a system for the handling of worthy cases of need, somewhat in the manner afterward developed by the Masonic Board of Relief, and, indeed, did considerable work along that line in the short period of its existence, but, by reason of inability to arouse sufficient interest lost ground, and finally expired in the latter part of 1861.

In 1859 the aggregate sum expended for relief by the several lodges (\$1,107.59) was first made a matter of record. This in a few years became an established custom, which still obtains, and while the tabulation of these and kindred statistics might have a certain value, the character of this work forbids their insertion, and permits only the broadest treatment. The most striking development of a study of these figures is the fact that subsequent to the Civil War, a period of unusually heavy expenditure for relief, the aggregate annual sum for charity bears a remarkable relation to the aggregate membership, and while never showing exact similarity of growth, yet the variation on either side of \$1 per capita per year is so slight as to be negligible, and that sum may safely be set down as the rate for the last fifty years. This, of course, deals only with the sums coming within the purview of the Grand Secretary, and is aside from many items which never are of record nor reach that official, and is also exclusive of the annual appropriations for the



JAMES A. SAMPLE,  
GRAND MASTER, 1890; GRAND TREASURER SINCE 1902.





support of St. John's Mite Association, the Masonic Board of Relief, and the Masonic and Eastern Star Home.

As has been stated, the period of the War of the Rebellion made many demands on the means of the Fraternity, and in 1862 the Grand Lodge met in special session to devise some scheme of coöperation among the lodges to meet these demands. This movement does not seem to have been successful, but in the latter part of the War, St. John's Lodge taking the initiative, a concerted movement, participated in by most of the Masonic bodies, was put on foot and did much toward extending systematic relief to the sick and wounded Federal and Confederate brethren until the close of hostilities. Through this medium the sum of \$525, together with large donations of clothing and tobacco, were contributed by the different lodges and by individual brethren, and the wants of the members of the Fraternity remaining in the hospitals in this city were relieved and many subsequently assisted in reaching their homes.

The various great disasters which have visited the country have each called forth a most liberal money contribution from the brethren of the District of Columbia, and by way of recapitulation it may be recited that the sum of \$3,334.90 was sent to the Chicago fire sufferers in 1871; \$1,789.50 to yellow fever sufferers at Memphis, Tenn., and Shreveport, La., in 1873; \$523.46 to Mississippi flood sufferers, in 1874; \$120 to sufferers in Kansas through failure of the crops, in 1875; \$1,552.20 to yellow fever sufferers in the South, in 1878; individual contributions of many of the local lodges, aggregate unknown, to Johnstown, Pa., victims, in 1889; \$1,330 to sufferers in Galveston disaster, in 1900; \$896.35 to relieve sufferers from Jacksonville, Fla., fire, in 1901, and \$2,616.50 to the San Francisco earthquake sufferers, in 1906.

A chapter on the charity of the local Fraternity would not be complete did it not include mention, at least, of the Masonic Mutual Relief Association, an insurance organization limited to members of the Order, which was chartered March 3, 1869, and is still in active operation. An incalculable amount

of good has been done in the forty-odd years of its existence in the relief of the widows and orphans of its policy-holders, and while changed conditions have within the last few years necessitated some readjustment of its rates, its career has been uninterrupted and its usefulness in its own peculiar field unimpaired. The officers and directors are drawn from the various lodges, and the representative character of these brethren is sufficient voucher for the integrity and stability of the institution.

Another form of Masonic charity is the distribution upon each recurring Christmas day by the members of Almas Temple of the Mystic Shrine of thousands of generous baskets of provisions to the poor of the city, and this labor of love knows no bounds of Fraternity, race, nor creed, but flows freely and unquestioningly wherever there are hungry mouths to feed; and who can measure the good thus done, not only in satisfying temporary physical want but in bringing into many shadowed by-ways a little of the Christmas sunshine and cheer which makes for happiness and peace.

With this rapid outline handling of the subject as a whole we come to more detailed but still concise sketches of the three agencies to the support of which the Fraternity is pledged and through which a large proportion of the charity of the organization finds its expression. Each has its peculiar and well defined sphere of action, and in the rare cases where there exists a doubt as to the proper medium of relief there is a hearty, whole-souled, and unselfish coöperation before which the difficulty disappears. These agencies are St. John's Mite Association, the Masonic Board of Relief, and the Masonic and Eastern Star Home, named in the order of their seniority, and are briefly treated as follows:

#### ST. JOHN'S MITE ASSOCIATION.

This Association was organized in 1872, and has enjoyed an uninterrupted career of usefulness to the present day. It is composed of one delegate from each of the subordinate

lodges, and was formed for the purpose of rendering relief to Master Masons of this jurisdiction, their wives, widows, and children, and primarily to relieve the lodges of a share of the burdens they encountered. The revenue until 1898 was limited and uncertain, being mainly derived from voluntary contributions from the several lodges, but in that year it came into possession of a fund of about \$15,500, a generous bequest of the late Bro. Anthony Buchly, a member at the time of his death of Federal Lodge, No. 1, of this jurisdiction, and for several years Treasurer of the Grand Lodge, the possession of which fund has enabled it to most satisfactorily widen its field of usefulness. In addition to the voluntary contributions above referred to various methods were resorted to to swell the fund, and among these were a series of "sociables," held in the winters of 81-82 and 82-83, which not only netted a comfortable sum, which was equally divided between the two kindred Associations, St. John's Mite and the Masonic Board of Relief, but brought the Masonic families into closer touch with each other, and served a very useful purpose along that rather neglected line. The Association has been fortunate in having been able to command the active support of many of our most earnest, capable, and unselfish brethren, and its success is, of course, in the largest measure due to that fact. Past Grand Master Donaldson was for some time its president, and R. W. Bro. Andrew Glass, vice-president. The former was succeeded in 1903 and the latter in 1907 by the present incumbents, Past Grand Master Walter A. Brown as president, and Brother Samuel Hart as vice-president; and, under the able management and with the hearty support given to the charity by each, the Association is now doing an ever increasing amount of good. Quietly and unostentatiously it has for years been pushing its work of bringing succor to the distressed and needy, and this in such delicate and tactful ways that no humiliation is felt, and hundreds of families have experienced its beneficence without ever knowing the source of their relief. Since its formation its great usefulness has been so apparent that it has ever been most popular,

so much so, indeed, that in 1891, when the project of building a Masonic Home was under discussion, the then Grand Master, W. Bro. Thos. F. Gibbs, strongly recommended the placing of the matter wholly in the hands of this Association.

#### MASONIC BOARD OF RELIEF.

This Board was the logical outcome of a condition which, in the latter part of the last century, became so increasingly annoying and difficult to handle as to necessitate active measures for relief. This condition was the ceaseless procession through our midst of a class of worthless impostors who, as has been aptly said, "wandered around the country on the strength of a Masonic pin or half-forgotten obligation," and besieged the local lodges and individual brethren, in season and out of season, for aid. The impossibility of differentiating between the worthy and unworthy frequently led to great injustice being done to the deserving and substantial aid being given to the professional parasites, a situation most distressing to the thinking and feeling members of the Fraternity. While the whole country suffered from the plague it was perhaps more virulent in this city, by reason of its large floating population and general reputation for prosperity, than elsewhere.

The matter of organizing a Board of Relief to meet the situation was formally before the Grand Lodge as early as 1866, and was referred to the then existent "Board of Masters," which reported favorably upon the project, but for some reason the movement came to naught, and, altho the subject was urged upon the attention of the brethren by practically all the succeeding Grand Masters, it was not until the early days of 1879 that the Masonic Board of Relief came into actual existence. At the date of the first report, November 1, 1879, thirteen of the twenty-one lodges in the jurisdiction were contributing to its support, and, while for quite a period of years a small number held aloof, the wisdom and effectiveness of the plan finally brought all within the fold,



THOMAS F. GIBBS,  
GRAND MASTER, 1891.





and the Association now has the entire Fraternity as its support and every brother a well wisher.

The objects, as stated in the first report, were: "First, to avoid granting relief to imposters; second, to avoid hasty or inconsiderate action, and, third, to distribute the work and expenditure proportionably among the several lodges."

The revenue has been derived from the first by an annual per capita assessment upon the lodges represented, and has never entailed a great burden, running as low as five cents per capita, and even at times passing the year without any assessment whatever. As in the case of St. John's Mite, the income has been in past years further increased by entertainments of various character.

The experience obtained by the few years of its existence in 1887 dictated the wisdom of certain changes in the matter of the personnel of the Board and the methods of dispensing charity, and led to a reorganization in that year, on the suggestion of the then president, W. Bro. L. Cabell Williamson. Under the new system each lodge elected and has continued to elect two representatives, one for one year and one for two, thus insuring a continuing Board. Other important changes were the fixing of the maximum annual assessment at twenty cents per capita and the definite limiting of the works of the Association to strangers and sojourners in the District.

At the date of the organization of the local Board similar boards existed in several States, and, the number of these rapidly increasing, a General Masonic Relief Association of the United States and Canada was organized, September 1, 1885, in Baltimore, Md., and through this medium the several jurisdictions have kept in intimate touch with each other, and by a perfected system of intercommunication have been able successfully to cope with an unbearable evil which had for years been diverting the funds of the Fraternity from their legitimate charities.

In this General Association the local workers have been active, and have been honored with important official positions, and as an evidence of their influence it may be noted

that the sixth annual session of that body was held in this city in 1891.

From the organization to the present day full reports of the operations of the local Board have been published annually in the Grand Lodge Proceedings and are available to any brother who desires details of figures, but the presentation and analysis of statistics so easily available does not fall within the scope of this work, and the matter is therefore briefly treated in its more general aspects.

The methods of handling cases are simple. Two representatives are on hand at the Masonic Temple each evening to receive applications for aid and to act immediately if a case appears urgent. An applicant, for instance, represents that he is a member of such a lodge in such a State, that he is in good standing, and that he is temporarily embarrassed and without means. He is usually, after a reasonable examination, escorted to a boarding house and made comfortable for the time being. The wire is at once used, and in a few hours his story is verified or disproved, and further relief is extended or denied as the case warrants. Temporary embarrassment is tidied over and the applicant placed on his feet, or, as is more often the case, transportation to his home is furnished. Expenditures are frequently refunded by the applicant's home lodge, and a surprising amount of relief work is thus done at comparatively little cost. This is but one of hundreds of cases of varied character, which readily suggest themselves, and call for the exercise of great tact and discretion. The net result of the operations of the Board has been the reduction of this class of cases to a minimum, and the entire relief of the lodges and individual brethren from embarrassing importunities.

The credit of this happy result is due in no small measure to the men who have given of their time and talents and energy to the work, and among them we may properly mention P. G. Master L. Cabell Williamson, at one time president, and who has represented the District in the General Association and held the positions of vice-president and secretary

of that body; P. G. Master Lurtin R. Ginn, who has also been a representative in the General Association, been honored by election as its president, and who has filled, most ably and acceptably, both the position of president and that of secretary of the local Board; Junior Grand Warden, W. Bro. T. John Newton, a member of the Advisory Board and president of the General Association, and who has also been president and secretary for many years, of the local Board; the late W. Bros. John N. Birkhead and Nathaniel B. Fugitt, both of whom served as president of the local Board; Past Presidents, W. Bros. William Mehn, of Takoma Lodge, No. 29; Luther F. Speer, of Columbia Lodge, No. 3, and others impossible of enumeration in the limited space at command. It is purely a work of love for sweet Charity's sake and the good name of the Fraternity, and merits and receives the universal commendation and gratitude of the brethren who know something of the unselfishness and onerous character of the labor thus performed.

#### THE MASONIC AND EASTERN STAR HOME.

This institution marks the final successful culmination of one of a number of movements in this direction set on foot from time to time during the century just closed. From the very earliest days it has been a hope, the subject was frequently agitated, and an occasional feeble start made, but probably the first promising effort was in the late fifties, when an organization of an executive committee to build a Masonic Home was effected by representatives of the Grand and subordinate lodges. The plan contemplated the enlisting of the aid of other jurisdictions, and in furtherance of this object the W. G. Chaplain, Rev. Bro. W. D. Haley, was made general superintendent of the work, and to him was assigned the mission of interesting the Fraternity at large in the charity; but experience soon demonstrated that the conception was too comprehensive, ill-advised, and impracticable, and, being coldly received, was in a short time given up.

In 1881 Pentalpha Lodge, No. 23, decided to endeavor to establish a "Masonic Institute" in the District, in memoriam of our late Bro. James A. Garfield, a member of that lodge at the time of his death, and invited Columbia Commandery, No. 2, K. T., and Mithras Lodge, A. A. S. R., with each of which he had been affiliated, to join in the work. The invitation being accepted, a corporation was formed under the name of the "Garfield Masonic Memorial Institute," and, with the approval of the Grand Lodge, active work in soliciting subscriptions was begun. Again came failure, through inability to arouse sufficient interest, and in 1885 the executive committee, having at that time on hand but \$1,000, decided to abandon the project and turn over the money contributed to the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home, of Louisville, Ky., which was accordingly done, the donation being most acceptable and receiving the thankful acknowledgment of that model institution.

While the matter now rested for a period of years, it was the subject of frequent recommendation by the succeeding Grand Masters, and thus the ground was kept in good condition against the time when the seed should be finally planted.

It remained for the Order of the Eastern Star to initiate the movement that has finally resulted in the establishment of a Home for the care of indigent Masons, their dependent widows and orphans, and members of the Order of the Eastern Star.

While the advisability of entering upon the work of establishing such an institution received the attention of the Order for some years, the actual crystallization of thought and effort grew out of the circumstance that in 1898 the untimely death of a brother left three children without adequate means of support. At the instance of the then Grand Matron of the District, Carolyn A. Handy, arrangements for the temporary care of the orphans were made by members of the Eastern Star, and at the next annual communication of the Grand Chapter the Grand Matron urged the establishment of a Home for the needy of both the Masonic and Eastern Star Orders,





FIRST MEETING PLACE OF M. M. PARKER  
LODGE, No. 27.

Third and H Streets, N. E.



THIRD MEETING PLACE OF M. M. PARKER LODGE, No. 27.

Twelfth and H Streets, N. E.





and recommended the appointment of a committee to formulate a plan to this end.

The recommendation being agreed to, a committee was appointed, which committee reported favorably in 1899, and, having sounded the various subordinate chapters in the meantime, made certain specific recommendations, among others that the name of the institution should be "The Masonic and Eastern Star Home," that it should be regularly incorporated, and that an annual per capita tax of twenty-five cents should be levied on the subordinate chapters for the support thereof, together with other provisions as to the selection of incorporators, said incorporators to constitute the Board of Directors.

At the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, November 8, 1899, the coöperation of that body was solicited, and a special committee was appointed to take up the matter. This committee reported at the May communication of 1900 and recommended that, in view of the undertaking of building a new Masonic Temple, it would be unwise to assume additional burdens at that time; and while the opinion was also expressed that as the Grand Lodge was the ruling Masonic body it should have entire control and direction of such an enterprise, the committee expressed hearty sympathy in the objects, aims, and purposes to be accomplished, and also recommended the appropriation of a sum not to exceed \$500 as a donation to the work. While the report and recommendations were adopted, the character of the appropriation recommended was such that no action was taken under it, but in 1902, in response to an appeal for the Grand Lodge to aid and approve of a proposed fair to be held for the benefit of the Home, the sum of \$300 was appropriated, and paid over to the Home officials in 1903.

The action of the Grand Lodge necessitated a change in the name of the institution, and the word "Masonic" was accordingly dropped, and an act of incorporation under the changed conditions was passed by Congress and approved March 10, 1902.

In the meantime, by a series of entertainments and by a

fair held in 1903, together with donations from the different Masonic bodies and individuals, a building fund of \$12,500 had been accumulated.

In the spring of 1904 Mrs. Sarah Seek, as an act of pure beneficence, donated five acres of land on Sligo Mill Road, about one-half mile north of Stott's Station on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, as a Home site, and the Board of Directors, under authority given by the Grand Chapter, purchased five adjoining acres at a cost of \$5,000, payable in twenty equal annual installments without interest. By the will of this lady, who died in 1907, the notes for the remaining deferred payments subsequent to the date of her death were cancelled, and the Home came into absolute possession of the entire ten acres.

Early in 1905 ground was broken for the erection of the west wing of the proposed building, plans for which had been accepted some time previously, and the cornerstone was laid by the Grand Lodge, W. Bro. Lurtin R. Ginn, Grand Master, officiating, on May 17, of that year, in the presence of a large assemblage of Masons, members of the Order of the Eastern Star, and friends.

At the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, December 22, 1905, Grand Master Ginn made a most eloquent appeal for the coöperation of the Grand Lodge in the noble work, both by a per capita assessment and permission to use the word "Masonic." The appeal was not in vain, and at the St. John's Day communication following permission was granted to amend the title of the Home and the appointment of three representatives on the Board of Directors authorized. The three first named were P. G. Masters Wetmore and Ginn and W. Bro. Charles J. James, all active workers in the cause. In December, 1907, P. G. Master Williamson succeeded P. G. Master Wetmore, the latter declining to serve longer, and the Grand Lodge trio of representatives thus formed remains so constituted to the present.

The Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, January 6, 1906, in acknowledgment of this action of the

Grand Lodge, authorized the amendment of the act of incorporation to include the word "Masonic" and to provide for a representative from each of the Masonic Lodges on the Board of Directors, and at the first session of the Fifty-ninth Congress the Act was accordingly so amended.

In September, 1906, the Grand Lodge levied a per capita tax of twenty-five cents upon the subordinate lodges, which at once, with the Eastern Star per capita, gave a fixed income of \$2,600, which has since, by natural growth in both Orders, been materially increased.

The completed portion of the Home was dedicated by Grand Master Walter A. Brown, assisted by the other officers of the Grand Lodge, October 16, 1906, and, as upon the occasion of the laying of the cornerstone, a special train was used to transport the great gathering of friends to and from the city.

Thus the institution so long dreamed of became a fact. The policy of the management from the beginning has been not to incur a cent of debt, and this has been rigidly adhered to, so that the Home is today absolutely without incumbrance.

It is located on a commanding eminence, north of the Soldiers' Home grounds, and while still difficult of access and with crude environment, the time is not far distant when the opening of avenues and the spread of the city in that direction will bring great and desirable changes. The accompanying halftone and engraving show the wing already erected and occupied and the plan of the completed building, which will be one of the most thoroughly equipped modern institutions of the kind in the country.

While avoiding the mention of names in this connection, where so many workers have given liberally of their time and efforts, it is yet the simplest justice to say that to the enthusiasm and executive ability of Mrs. Alcena Lamond, the first Grand Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star in the District of Columbia and President of the Board of Directors since its organization, is in a large measure due the successful outcome of the movement.

The building was at once thoroughly furnished through the

generosity of the several Eastern Star chapters and individual members of that Order, and immediately started on its labor of love by receiving and caring for the needy. That the charity was a much needed one is vouched for by the fact that in a few years the limited space available, which in 1909 had been further augmented by the conversion of the attic story into a number of rooms, had already been taken up by accepted applicants, since which time an undesirably crowded condition has obtained, which can only be relieved by the completion of the original plans, funds for which purpose have been accumulating from various sources, but not in such volume, up to the date of publication, as to justify early action. The same indomitable spirit, however, that has brought the work thus far will, beyond the shadow of a doubt, press it to successful conclusion.

## CHAPTER XVII.

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### THE WORK.

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#### GRADUAL EVOLUTION OF LATTER-DAY RITUALISM—ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CEREMONIAL IN THE DISTRICT.

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*"The center of Masonic unity is faith in God; its chief manual is the Holy Bible."*

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ONE OF THE GREATEST and at the same time most common misconceptions in the Fraternity is that of investing our ritualism with the antiquity and importance of the fundamental principles upon which the institution is builded, and, as a consequence, we find the tendency in a certain school of Masons to violently oppose the slightest change in ceremonial, holding all such departures as infringements of the ancient landmarks.

While this is not the time nor place to advance an argument for or against this position, yet, in order that the mind of the average brother may be prepared to receive without shock the disillusioning story of the evolution of our modern degrees, we hold it proper to emphasize the thought that ritualism is not Masonry; that the ceremonial is but the casket in which the imperishable jewel rests, and that this great system of morality we call Masonry depends in small degree upon the changing forms and ceremonies with which successive generations have clothed it, but has stood the test of unknown ages simply by reason of the fact that it contains



within itself those great and eternal principles which make for the development of the moral nature, the uplift of the human race, and the practical demonstration of the great truth of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man.

But the ritual, though constantly changing—naturally, inevitably, and properly changing—is still an essential, perhaps indispensable, part of the system, and is deserving of the most careful study. Therefore, as concisely as may be, let us trace the development of our symbolic degrees from their simple primitive origin to the pretentious ceremonial as practiced in the District of Columbia at the present day.

While some writers do not admit that ritualism is wholly modern, predicated their belief on the fact that it was all esoteric, and therefore not of record, yet it is sufficiently established by research and deduction that the degrees, using the word in its common acceptation, had their origin immediately subsequent to the formation of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717, a revolutionary event in the history of the Fraternity, but in nowise disturbing those basic principles which establish the claim that Freemasonry is the most ancient, the most complete, and the most extensive institution ever devised by man.

For a proper understanding, then, of our ritualistic genealogy it will be necessary to take a brief but reasonably comprehensive survey of the history of ritualism from the above date to the present, following, of course, its ramifications only so far as they lead us to a proper understanding of the development of our own work in this year of our Lord 1910.

The ancient guilds of operative Masons, from which we sprang, had their simple but binding obligations, their regulations, and their modes of recognition, but no elaborate ceremony marked the induction of the novitiate. The earliest records of the Craft show them divided into three classes: the Masters, to oversee the work; the Fellow-crafts, the skilled operatives, and the Entered Apprentices, the apprentices under instruction. The latter, of course, were subordinate, and had

no voice in the councils, the Fellow-crafts constituting the great body of the association.

As Masonry gradually changed from operative to speculative and commenced to include the brightest minds of the period, the institution became more and more a social body, linked together by a moral code, and the subordinate character of the initiates changed until, early in the eighteenth century, the Entered Apprentices constituted the great majority of the Fraternity, the Fellow-craft and Master Mason being merely honorary communicated degrees, conferred as rewards of merit, and the latter only upon those elected to preside, and they, and they only, were known as Master Masons.

Practically the Entered Apprentice degree constituted the essential part of the system, and the initiated became at once full-fledged Masons. The ceremony was yet of the simplest character, and the main feature was the obligation, which, while of course couched in different language, was substantially the obligation of today and carried the same penalty.

All business was conducted in the E. A. degree, and this continued after the F. C. and M. M. degrees had been elaborated into something like their present importance. This jurisdiction, indeed, held to the custom until 1849, and to the present day it survives in this city in the fact that the corner-stones of public buildings, when Masonically placed, are laid by lodges opened on the first degree of Masonry. It may be remarked, however, parenthetically, that on at least one occasion, July 5, 1851, the Grand Lodge returning from such a function was obliged, by lack of sufficient members present, to dispense with the E. A. and open on the M. M. degree. In some other jurisdictions, notably England, the ancient method is still adhered to. Even the obligations of the F. C. and M. M. degrees were originally given in an E. A. lodge and in the hearing of Entered Apprentices not yet honored by advancement.

From this primitive beginning come our degrees.

The restriction as to the third degree being only conferred on those elected to the Chair was, in the course of time,

removed, and the several degrees separated and elaborated until, early in the last century, they assumed substantially the form they are now in.

Returning to the earliest recorded movement toward a pretentious ritual, we are told that the legend of the third degree was introduced about the year 1721, having been adapted to Masonry from certain idle tales taken out of the Jewish Targums, published in London in 1715, from manuscripts in the University Library of Cambridge. This theory, while unsupported by competent evidence, is at least interesting, and does no special violence to the generally accepted opinion of Masonic writers that this legend, in more or less similar form, played an important part in the mysteries and rites of the ancient secret organizations of different countries which stretch back to prehistoric times.

Soon after the formation of the Grand Lodge of Ancients Lawrence McDermott, an expelled Mason from Ireland, but doubtless of honest convictions and certainly of brilliant intellect, introduced into the lodges of the Ancients, with the Grand Lodge of which he had become connected in the capacity of Secretary, certain "improvements," which were later reluctantly adopted by the Moderns. This ritual appears to have been the foundation of our modern ceremonial.

About the middle of the eighteenth century the desire to especially honor those elected to the East again asserted itself in the separation of some of the essential parts of the M. M. degree and the formation therefrom of another, which was called the Royal Arch, and for many years this degree was conferred in blue lodges on Masters and Past Masters only. Later the degree was given in so-called Chapters appendant to and under the control of individual lodges. Later, however, by the creation of the Past Masters degree, originally an installation ceremony, a way was found to confer the degree upon all found worthy to receive it.

Just on the border-land between the centuries the R. A. became a separate organization, and gradually settled into the form of four degrees: the Mark Master, an offshoot and



FREDERICK G. ALEXANDER,  
GRAND MASTER, 1892.



originally in its essentials a part of the Fellow-craft; the Past Masters, already referred to; the Most Excellent, a piece chopped off of the R. A., and expanded, and the Royal Arch.

The Past Masters degree separated from the lodge very slowly and reluctantly in this jurisdiction. For many years after the divorce of symbolic and capitular Masonry the Grand Lodge as well as the subordinate lodges opened in this degree for installation, and it was not until 1848 that it was finally given over to the capitular system by vote of the Grand Lodge, the right to hold an emergent Past Masters lodge, of course, being retained and exercised to this day.

Thus out of small communicated degrees have grown all the degrees of symbolic and capitular Masonry above the Entered Apprentice, which, as we have seen, has only lost its character as the parent trunk in comparatively recent years.

So much for the subject in a general way. Before entering upon more specific details it may be well, in the interest of a clear conception of the situation, to say a word in reference to the much misused term "rite." As generally understood the word in connection with a symbolic lodge denotes the source of its origin and the work it follows, "York rite" being applied to lodges claiming descent from the so-called Grand Lodge held at York, etc. This is incorrect. The term "rite" has no connection whatever with symbolic Masonry. Originally consisting of but three degrees—in fact, but one—there were afterward appended what purported to be higher degrees, and as these were classified or reduced to systems those systems were called "rites." Each retained the original three degrees, and these were erroneously included in the term. The whole of ancient craft Masonry is to be found within the symbolic and Capitular systems.

The term "York rite" (using the phrase in its perverted sense), as applied to any ritualism practiced in this country, is a misnomer, and arose from the fact that the Athol Grand Lodge, or "Ancients," claimed a connection with the York Grand Lodge, which it never had, and while it chartered many lodges in the Colonies, no American lodge ever sprang from



the true York grand body; and while the ritual of the former may, and probably did, coincide with that of the latter, yet the direct descent is clearly disproven, and the right to the term therefore plainly a usurped one.

To William Preston, who began a reformation of rituals in London, England, about the year 1775, we may properly trace the ceremonial of this jurisdiction. He collected the fragments of old rituals then accessible, assembled them in order, and taught them to the lodges. Within twenty years nearly all the lodges in England, Ireland, and Scotland adopted his work and secured practical uniformity. Thomas Smith Webb, a pupil of Preston's, and well versed in the work, came to the United States about the year 1795, and immediately began to disseminate it. He published the first edition of his *Monitor* in Albany in 1797, and all publications of a similar character since then have been but reprints of Webb, with such alterations and amendments as the caprice of the authors led them to make. Through his pupils this work was carried into every jurisdiction but that of Pennsylvania, and after his death the innovations and changes fathered by these pupils led to great confusion. One of them, Jeremy L. Cross, has, more than any other, left his impress on our ritual. Appointed Grand Lecturer of the General Grand R. A. Chapter of the United States in 1817, he spent many years traveling over the country, and promulgated his variations of the work in all branches of Masonry wherever he went.

Pennsylvania, alone, resisted all blandishments of the reformers and adhered to the original McDermott work, and, as we trace our ancestry legitimately through Maryland to Pennsylvania, it may be surmised that we had a strain of that blood in our veins at birth. Indeed this is evidenced by the fact that for a number of years after the formation of our Grand Lodge here the term "York Masons" clung to us in spots, and before its final disappearance was on several occasions a matter of discussion in the Grand Lodge.

Considerable diversity of expression and form among the several lodges forming the Grand Lodge of the District was

the necessary result of the various origins. Potomac, while deriving its charter from Maryland, really, through its predecessors, antedated that jurisdiction, and may therefore be supposed to have been more or less of a free lance as to its ritual. Naval, Federal, and Columbia probably followed closely the work of Maryland, altho the former shows to this day a slight variation that has been said to owe its parentage to the Scottish rite. Brooke Lodge, of Alexandria, coming to us from Virginia, must also have had its peculiarities, and thus it will be seen that at the beginning of the last century our first fathers had no small task before them in the adjustment of the warring ritualistic elements and the production of some degree of uniformity, and the immensity and difficulty of the undertaking may be inferred from the fact that a half century of earnest effort was needed to bring about the result as we have it today.

The first movement was inaugurated January 14, 1812, by the adoption of a resolution by the Grand Lodge to appoint a committee of delegates from the several lodges for the purpose of devising a uniform system of work, but the desirability of such a result does not seem to have appealed to the committee, who on July 14 of the same year reported and succeeded in having adopted the following resolution:

*Resolved*, In the opinion of the Grand Lodge that it is now unnecessary to make any change in the long-established usages of each lodge, and that each lodge be at liberty to use such rules and ceremonies as they shall see fit: *Provided*, That they do not infringe any of the ancient landmarks of the Craft.

A little reflection makes this action easily understandable. The lodges were scattered, the distances great, and transportation facilities of the most primitive character, and as a result there was little interchange of visits. Each lodge was in a sense a close corporation, jealous of its rights and traditions, and unwilling to jeopardize its individuality for the sake of a uniformity which promised no adequate compensating results.

July 13, 1813, the matter came up again in the offering of

a resolution to have the Prestonian lectures "delivered in such a manner as to make them known to every lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge;" but, no action being taken, a hiatus appears until January 10, 1815, when, by resolution, a committee was authorized to hear the Prestonian lectures and report as to the advisability of adopting the same. A committee was appointed, but seems never to have reported. October 20, 1818, another committee, for the same purpose, was appointed, which duly reported in April of the following year, and the subject was debated at length in the Grand Lodge in June, but again the project fell through. The time was not yet.

Evidence is not wanting, however, that the desire for improvement was still active for in 1821 a proposition to appoint a Grand Visitor and Lecturer was brought before the Grand Lodge, and, while temporarily lost sight of, was revived November 4, 1823, when the first Grand Visitor and Lecturer, Jeremiah Elkins, was chosen, since which time there has been an unbroken line of faithful, capable instructors, to whom the jurisdiction is largely indebted for the world-wide reputation it has enjoyed for years as second to none in its impressive rendition of the symbolic degrees.

At the session of the Grand Lodge May 3, 1825, the usual resolution was again introduced and resulted in an elaborate report by the committee at the meeting of November 1, 1825, in which, after a lengthy introduction, five resolutions were offered and adopted. These resolutions were singularly prolix and visionary, instructing the "Masters, Wardens, and other officers, together with such other members as have made the greatest advance in Masonic knowledge," to meet and confer on the subject and adopt a uniform mode of work; also recommending the delivering of lectures "upon the principles, forms, and symbols of Masonry at every stated meeting when the business of the lodge would permit," and advising consultation with well-informed brethren from other jurisdictions when suitable opportunity occurred. While of such a general and therefore ineffectual character, these resolutions mark, perhaps, the first real step in the direction of



L. CABELL WILLIAMSON,  
GRAND MASTER, 1893.



uniformity, and while such a plan could not possibly accomplish the object supposed to be sought, yet it constituted a trial of one of the many methods, the gradual elimination of which finally led to the proper course. Its ineffectiveness was brought to the attention of the Grand Lodge November 4, 1828, by the then Grand Visitor and Lecturer, John B. Hammalt, who stated that in his "humble opinion" the system being pursued by the Grand Lodge would not produce that most desirable effect of uniformity, and suggested that "lodges have special meetings for the purpose, or that the Masters and Wardens of the different lodges meet for the same purpose, and that the deacons be invited to unite, and all Master Masons invited as visitors."

These strictures having been referred to a committee, said committee, May 5, 1829, reported, holding the Grand Lecturer's arraignment of the method adopted November 1, 1825, as disrespectful to the Grand Lodge, deplored the fact that the paucity of funds made it impossible to pay one or more lecturers well to insure their attention to their duty, salved the sting, however, by complimenting the Grand Visitor and Lecturer on his Masonic ability, etc., and concluded, comfortably, that "there is no more, if as much, lack of uniformity here than in other jurisdictions."

The years 1837, 1841, 1842, and 1843 witnessed spasmodic but ineffectual attempts to bring the lodges together in the work. June 24, 1843, the G. V. and L., Bro. N. Seevers, who had attended a national convention in Baltimore the previous month, with the main object of uniformity of work, reported on the same, and at a special in July explained the work and lectures adopted by the convention, and exemplified two sections of the E. A. degree, "when, the hour being late, the Grand Lodge adjourned," and with the adjournment this attempt disappears from the records.

A resolution adopted November 6, 1849, having for its object the appointment of delegates from the various lodges to meet and adopt a uniform system, bore fruit and resulted in the exemplification, December 21, 1852, by the G. V. and L.,



Horatio N. Steele, of the three degrees before the Grand Lodge, and at a special meeting held January 20, 1853, for the purpose of passing upon the same, the work of the first two degrees was adopted without comment. The work of the M. M. degree, however, provoked elaborate discussion, precipitated, there is every reason to believe, by the defense of certain portions of the work of Naval Lodge, No. 4, by Brother John W. McKim, S. W. of that lodge, a communication to the author from this brother, but lately deceased, and at the time of his death an honored judge of the Probate Court and Court of Insolvency for Suffolk County, Mass., clearly proving this. After a variety of resolutions were discussed and defeated, the Grand Lodge adopted one to the effect that the "Grand Lodge would not interfere with any lodge in the use of different instruments with which the work of the degree is performed and in the different manner of the arrangement of the room where the language corresponds with that fixed by the Grand Lodge," and the work as a whole was then approved with but one dissenting voice.

This work, with a few amendments and alterations, is substantially the work of today. Two of the more important amendments were the introduction of the present prayers of the F. C. and M. M. degrees, which were taken from the work of Great Britain by a committee of which the late B. B. French was chairman, and adopted May 4, 1858.

This brilliant Mason, to whom, perhaps, more than any other one man the Fraternity in this jurisdiction is indebted, also proposed and had adopted the resolution requiring proficiency before advancement, which he introduced May 18, 1859, and which really marks the first practical step towards uniformity, which can only be had by the general dissemination of the ritual by competent instructors.

In a decade the revolutionary spirit broke out afresh, and on January 29 and 30, 1864, the three degrees were exemplified by the Grand Visitor and Lecturer without action, but on February 20 of the same year a committee, previously appointed for the purpose, reported that they had restricted themselves to the restoration of the work as exemplified by Brother

Steele and adopted in 1852. They had only departed from it by correcting the grammar and rendering more intelligible certain portions. The first degree was then exemplified and approved, and the present resolution making it obligatory on the lodges to give the lecture on the same evening as the degree was also adopted. On March 16, 1864, and January 21, 1865, the second and third degrees, respectively, were exemplified and adopted.

The increasing number of petitioners also led, in May of this latter year, to the adoption of the resolution to omit all the usual ceremonies of the second section of the third degree except the manual instruction with all except the last candidate whenever "there is more than one to receive the degree the same evening."

Four years only elapsed before the impulse again became irresistible to tinker with the ritual, and a committee having been appointed in the spring of 1869 to revise the lecture of the third degree, reported recommending some minor changes, and their recommendations having been adopted, our ritual, with the exception of several slight and wholly unimportant changes, has remained to this day a model for all jurisdictions, and no better confirmation of this is needed than the testimony of Earl de Gray and Ripon and Lord Tenderden, the former then Grand Master of Masons of England, and the latter a Past Master of that jurisdiction, who, accompanied by other distinguished British Masons, visited Washington in 1871. While here they were the recipients of many social honors and visited a number of the lodges, and not only witnessed the work, but by dispensation assumed the stations in Pentalpha and National Lodges and conferred the first and third degrees according to the English system. Their opinion was voiced by Lord Tenderden, who declared emphatically, after full opportunity to make the comparison, that he liked our work much better than theirs, and that the ceremony of the third degree was the most beautiful of anything he had ever seen.

And this is the simple story of our "work," as far as it is proper to be written.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

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### CAPITULAR MASONRY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

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*"He that humbleth himself shall be exalted."*

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THE DATE of the origin of the Royal Arch degree has long been the subject of research and speculation by Masonic writers but while the various theories advanced show some natural differences of opinion, yet the general fact stands out with reasonable clearness that the separation of an essential part of the Master Mason's degree and its elaboration into a fourth degree occurred in England about 1740, several years prior to the formation of the Grand Lodge of Ancients. While the circumstances surrounding its birth lie buried in the past, it is a matter of record that it was first cultivated and propagated by the above mentioned Grand Lodge, and, as most of the early American lodges derived their charters from this source, it is a fair presumption that the Royal Arch Degree, with or without express authority, was a part of the system at the time of their constitution.

At the first the degree was conferred in and by the lodge, later in a body styled encampment or chapter, which was appendant to a lodge, and had no other authority than that derived from the lodge. Still later the dependent chapters organized Grand Chapters, these also being dependent upon Grand Lodges.

The evolution of the degree and, indeed, of the entire series that now constitute our American system, distinctly different from all others, is a subject of more than passing interest, and



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is touched upon in the chapter on "Work," but cannot be pursued in the limits of this strictly historical sketch, and, after pausing for a moment for a glance at its earliest introduction in America, we must find our true point of departure at the date of its first appearance in the District of Columbia.

To the Fredericksburg, Va., Lodge belongs the distinction of the earliest record touching the Royal Arch in this country, or indeed anywhere, the degree being conferred in that lodge December 22, 1753; and it is worthy of note that said lodge was at the time an "inherent right" lodge, and did not obtain its charter until five years later. Athol Lodge, of Philadelphia, Pa., may justly lay claim to the second record, occurring in 1768, and St. Andrew's Lodge (also called a "R. A. Lodge"), of Boston, Mass., the third, in 1769. While these are the earliest records, it must not be assumed from that fact that the degree was not conferred at an even earlier period, the Masonic custom of the period being averse to documentary evidence, the remains of this sentiment even reaching far into the last century, and making historical research surprisingly difficult and unsatisfactory.

The first evidence of Capitular Masonry in the District of Columbia is contained in the records of a "Royal Arch Encampment" held in Washington City, 1795 to 1799, in which it is shown that on December 14, 1795, eight members were congregated in Federal Lodge, No. 15, for the purpose of forming such an encampment, and at a subsequent meeting, on the 16th of the same month, a committee, previously appointed, reported as to ways and means, among other things venturing the opinion that the "sum of 23 pounds and 1 shilling was indispensably necessary to provide the material to prepare them and to arrange the lodge room previous to the forming of a R. A. Encampment," and, to the honor of the Craft, recommended the immediate formation of a fund for the relief of distressed brethren and the widows and children of deceased members.

The report being agreed to, the encampment appears to have met with some degree of regularity until February, 1799,



when it was "resolved, that the R. A. Encampment be broke up," and a committee was appointed to settle up its affairs, "and everyone to receive his dividend."

The record shows the officers and members at this time to have been as follows: M. W. Comp. James Hoban, High Priest; R. W. Comps. John Carter, Captain General; Robt. Brown, 1st Grand Master; Redmond Purcell, 2d G. M.; Peter Lenox, 3d G. M.; John Hamley, Treasurer; Patrick Hearly, Secretary; John Lenox, Tyler; and Comps. Alex. McCormick, Samuel Elliott, Wm. O'Neal, Jeremiah Gallagher, Daniel Cumming, Benj. Moore, Jas. Sweeny, Clotworthy Stephenson, Rev. Geo. Ralph, Owen Donlevey, Jas. Hodgson, Pierce Purnell, and Richard Gridley.

Subsequently, tho not of record, the Royal Arch "Chapter," now so-called, appears to have been revived, and under date of December 1, 1804, a meeting was held at which several brethren received the "Excellent Super Excellent Royal Arch," \$10 being charged for the same.

In 1806 Concordia R. A. Chapter, of Baltimore, Md., issued a circular to the various chapters in that city and the District of Columbia, requesting them to send delegates to a grand convention to be held in the City of Washington the third Wednesday in January, 1807, and in the preamble we find these significant words: "The Grand Chapter to which we were tributary has for a long time lain dormant."

In answer to this circular on Sunday, December 14, 1806, the appointment of such a committee was authorized by the only local chapter (that appendant to Federal Lodge) of which we have record, and the convention being held January 21, 1807, three Maryland chapters, Washington, Concordia, and St. John's, and three local chapters, Federal and Washington Naval, of Washington, and Potomac, of Georgetown, were represented, which constitutes the only available evidence of the existence at the time of the two latter chapters, which were undoubtedly made up largely from the membership of and dependent upon the two lodges of similar names, and probably had received charters from the Grand Chapter of Mary-

land, which there appears to be incontrovertible evidence was formed in 1797.

At this convention the first Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland and the District of Columbia was formed, with the following roster of officers, in which list, it will be observed, two of our subsequent Grand Masters found place: Comp. John Crawford, Grand High Priest; Oliver B. Hayes, Dep. G. H. P.; Valentine Reintzel, G. King; Robert Rankin, G. Scribe; Alexander McCormick, G. Treasurer; Robert Elliott, G. Chaplain; Philip P. Eckel, 1st Captain of the Vails; Charles Jones, 2d Capt. of the Vails; William Smith, 3d Capt. of the Vails; Adam Denmead, 4th Capt. of the Vails; Benj. King, Grand Marshal, or Master of Ceremonies; Nicholas Quinn, Grand Conductor; William O'Neale and Joseph Cassin, G. Purveyors; Nathaniel Knight, G. Pursuivant, and William Cook and — Brown, G. Janitors.

The constitution adopted by the convention prescribed a fee of \$35 for a charter for a new R. A. chapter, and for a charter to hold a Mark Master lodge separate from a chapter, \$18. While the separation made possible by the last clause does not seem ever to have been practiced here, it may be stated for the benefit of the general reader that in England the Mark Master's degree is, and always has been, an entirely separate degree conferred in lodges of that designation and giving allegiance to their own Grand body.

While the earlier chapters in this section conferred but one degree—the “Excellent Super Excellent Royal Arch”—the system as we have it today was commencing to find favor about this time, and was recognized in the constitution referred to and has obtained ever since, viz: Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch.

After 1807 there is no available record of the above Grand Chapter until 1814, with the exception that there is evidence that our local chapters appointed delegates thereto in 1808.

In 1814 a reorganization was effected by the action of Washington, No. 1, and Chapter No. 2, of Baltimore, and Federal, No. 1, of Washington, which became Nos. 1, 2, and

3, respectively, and a few years later the old chapters, Concordia, of Baltimore, and Washington Naval, of Washington, received charters as Nos. 4 and 5, while Phoenix, of Baltimore, Brooke, of Alexandria, and Potomac, of Georgetown, were subsequently gathered into the fold and assigned Nos. 6, 7, and 8, in the order named.

Federal Chapter, No. 3, was undoubtedly the direct descendant of the Royal Arch Encampment organized by Clotworthy Stephenson in 1795, and therefore, perhaps the earliest Royal Arch organization in the District, altho Potomac Chapter claims this distinction, not only because of the earlier date of the charter of its parent lodge, Potomac, in 1789, and the probable activity of its R. A. members, but also by reason of the existence of an old seal bearing date of 2310, or A. D. 1780, which appears to indicate the existence of a chapter appendant to the so-called "St. Andrew's Lodge," which tradition insists existed at a very early period in Georgetown, either under that name or the more popular one of "Auld Scotch Lodge."

The seal alluded to, which is the only tangible evidence in support of the date, 1780, was, according to the best authorities on seals, certainly manufactured not over fifty years ago, and therefore the appearance of the early date must have been predicated upon evidence which is at present unavailable. It is, perhaps, proper to state in this connection that the late Bro. C. F. Shekell, of Georgetown, a Masonic antiquarian of wide reputation, insisted upon the acceptance of this date, but the unfortunate scattering and loss of many of his papers after his demise, has thus far prevented the uncovering of any evidence which may have been in his possession.

The Grand Chapter formed in 1814 seems to have flourished for some years, but, the membership in the District having in a few years assumed respectable proportions and the inconveniences of travel between Baltimore and Washington being very trying, the spirit of independence soon asserted itself, and in May, 1822, the Companions of the District were called together in convention to consider the propriety of

forming a Grand Chapter for the District of Columbia, and in response to this call the representatives of Federal, No. 3, \*Union, No. 4, and Potomac, No. 8, assembled at that time, and after several adjourned meetings, on July 16, of that year, adopted a constitution and appointed a committee to attend the next meeting of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia, to present thereat an attested copy of the proceedings of the convention, and authorized to receive the proportion of funds due to the chapters within the District of Columbia.

At a meeting held September 10, 1822, a formal dispensation to form a Grand Chapter in the District of Columbia was received from Hon. DeWitt Clinton, G. G. H. P. U. S. A., dated at New York City.

Thus came into existence the first independent Grand Chapter of the District, altho from lack of proper representation the actual formation was not effected until February 10, 1824, at which date the representatives of Federal, No. 3, Union, No. 4, Brooke, No. 7, and Potomac, No. 8, met and organized by the election of the following officers: Comps. William Lambert, Grand High Priest; Amos Alexander, Dep. G. H. P.; Marmaduke Dove, Grand King; Thomas Corcoran, Grand Scribe; Chas. T. Chapman, Grand Treasurer, and Joseph Ingle, Grand Secretary, and the readoption of the former constitution.

At an adjourned meeting, held March 9, 1824, Potomac, altho having up to this time taken an active part in the formation of the independent Grand Chapter, signified her intention of withdrawing therefrom, and subsequently applied to the General Grand Chapter for permission to retain allegiance to the Grand Chapter of Maryland, which was granted. Three chapters still remaining loyal the local Grand Chapter continued, Federal Chapter assuming the name and number of Washington R. A. Chapter, No. 1, Union became No. 2, and Brooke, No. 3.

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\* Probably identical with Washington Naval, No. 4. See history of unique relations between Naval and Union Lodges, in sketch of latter in Chapter XV.

The Grand Chapter of Maryland consented to the formation of the new Grand Chapter and also gave Potomac Chapter permission to remain under its jurisdiction, still retaining, however, the title of Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland and the District of Columbia, and thus was presented the unusual condition of two separate Grand Chapters claiming jurisdiction over the same territory. This state of affairs naturally led to considerable dissatisfaction, but was finally adjusted by the Grand Chapter of Maryland dropping the words "District of Columbia" and relinquishing all jurisdictional rights in the section except so far as related to Potomac Chapter.

The first recorded visitation of the Grand Chapter to a subordinate chapter occurred April 6, 1825, to Brooke Chapter, and in general form the proceedings were identical with those of similar occasions today, altho the opportunity was frequently taken advantage of to install the officers elect, and, a condition precedent at this time and for a number of years thereafter to the installation of a High Priest being his possession of the rite of the Order of High Priesthood (Anointed High Priests), that degree was also conferred upon him the same evening, the Chapter being temporarily purged for this purpose of all who had not as yet received said degree.

In 1826 W. W. Seaton succeeded Wm. Lambert as Grand High Priest, and continued as such until 1831, being in turn succeeded by John A. Cook, who was occupying the chair when the Grand Chapter expired in 1833 or shortly thereafter.

At the annual convocation of January 9, 1827, a charter was granted to Comps. Wm. Hewitt, P. Mauro, William Cooper, W. W. Seaton, and nine others to form a chapter to be known as Temple Chapter, No. 4, and this chapter appears to have been an active member of the little family until the anti-Masonic wave swept the Grand Chapter and most of the subordinate chapters out of existence.

February 25, 1828, a special meeting of the Grand Chapter was held for the "purpose of evincing its sorrow for the sudden and lamented decease of our late Comp. DeWitt Clinton,



M. E. G. G. H. P. of the G. G. R. A. Chapter of the U. S., and of adopting measures to testify its profound respect for his memory," and was followed, March 29, by the formation of a procession composed of the Grand Lodge, followed by the Grand Chapters of the District and of Maryland, escorted by the "officers and members of Washington Encampment (K. T.) clothed in the habiliments of their Order," which proceeded to St. John's Church and attended a special memorial service in honor of the distinguished dead.

The Grand Chapter at this early day led a nomadic existence and met in the various chapter rooms in this city, Georgetown, and Alexandria, the hour of meeting being 10 A. M., as the difficulties of night journeys at that time were practically insurmountable.

A rather peculiar feature of the meetings, and one we have also had occasion to note as marking the meetings of the Grand Lodge, was the transaction of much of the routine business by the Dep. G. H. Priest, the High Priest not appearing until after the meeting was well advanced, and being received with considerable ceremony.

On April 3, 1830, occurred in Washington the installation of Hon. Edward Livingston, G. G. H. Priest elect, and Hon. Joel Poinsett, Dep. G. G. H. P. elect, the ceremony being conducted by a Grand Convention of the Grand Chapters of the District and Maryland, with G. H. Priest W. W. Seaton presiding.

The last available record of this Grand Chapter is found in the minutes of the meeting of January 8, 1833, at which meeting Washington, Union, Brooke, and Temple Chapters were represented, and adjournment was had until the fourth Saturday of the month. Subsequent to this, the anti-Masonic movement reaching its height, the Grand Chapter ceased to exist.

Potomac Chapter alone is known to have continued active through this period until 1838, when Columbia Chapter applied to and received a charter from the Grand Chapter of Maryland. This action was considered improper, as it was held by some authorities that the District, upon the death of



the local Grand Chapter, was unoccupied territory, and hence under the General Grand Chapter. The latter body, however, through the Dep. G. G. H. Priest, Stapleton, legalized the charter in 1842, by placing the two chapters under the jurisdiction of Maryland.

In November, 1847, the Maryland Grand Chapter granted a charter to Washington Chapter, No. 16, and in 1856 the title of the governing body was again changed to "The Grand Chapter of the State of Maryland and the District of Columbia."

In 1864 a charter was granted to Mt. Vernon Chapter, No. 20, of this city, and two years later, the aggregate membership of the four local chapters exceeding that of the entire State of Maryland, the desire for independence again took form in the preparation of a memorial by Columbia, Washington, and Mt. Vernon to the Grand Chapter asking for a dissolution of the connection between the Maryland and District R. A. Masons, and the formation of a Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, which was signed by the following Companions: L. G. Stephens, John Lockie, R. H. Boswell, Andrew Glass, William Middleton, A. T. Longley, C. W. Hancock, Noble D. Larner, and Chauncey Smith.

This resolution having been referred back by the Grand Chapter to the local chapters, they resolved to insist upon a separation, Potomac, however, again declining to join the movement. G. H. Priest James G. Smith, a member of Columbia Chapter, alleging this insistence on the part of the three chapters to be an act of rebellion, refused to have the matter further entertained by the Grand Chapter, and declared the charters of the three chapters suspended, and the elective officers thereof suspended from the rights and privileges of R. A. Masonry.

In this dilemma the High Priests of said chapters called a convention for the purpose of taking steps to form an independent Grand Chapter, at which convention, the intimation being authoritatively given, as from the G. H. Priest, that upon request he would convene the Grand Chapter of Mary-



HENRY S. MERRILL,  
GRAND MASTER, 1894.



land and the District of Columbia in special session to consider the matter, and, this recognition appealing to the convention, a resolution embodying such a request was drawn up and presented to the G. H. Priest, who accordingly called the Grand Chapter in special session in March, 1867, when the surrendered charters were returned and the separation agreed to by the Grand Chapter.

In April of the same year delegates from the three chapters, as also from Potomac, met and adopted a constitution and elected officers. Soon after this meeting G. H. P. Smith called another meeting of the Grand Chapter to lay before that body what he considered the insubordination of the local chapters in forming a Grand Chapter without the consent of the first four officers of the General Grand Chapter. This contention being based upon a misinterpretation of the law and being quashed by a communication from the G. G. H. Priest, John L. Lewis, a resolution was passed in the Grand Chapter declaring the dissolution complete.

Potomac Chapter, altho having taken an active part in the convention of a few weeks before, now voted against this resolution, and upon its passage requested permission to remain under the jurisdiction of Maryland. G. H. Priest Smith refused to entertain the request, as Potomac was in the newly created jurisdiction, and stating that as a member of Columbia Chapter, of Washington, he was no longer eligible for the position of G. H. Priest, turned over the gavel of authority to the Deputy.

On May 23, 1867, Comp. J. E. F. Holmead was installed G. H. Priest, and Comp. L. G. Stephens Dep. G. H. P., at Wall's Opera House, the event being made the occasion of a most notable Masonic gathering and procession. The Grand Lodge and the Fraternity generally participated in celebrating the day as marking a new era in Capitular Masonry in the District. The two commanderies then in existence were called out as an escort for the Grand Chapter, which body was composed of representatives from all the local chapters except Potomac, and the ceremony of installation was performed by

M. E. Comp. A. G. Mackey, P. G. G. H. P. of the G. G. Chapter of the U. S., while P. G. G. Scribe B. B. French acted as Master of Ceremonies, upon the conclusion of which the Grand Chapter returned to its hall and opened in ample form.

Thus auspiciously came into existence the present Grand Chapter, but the early days were not without trouble, for the better understanding of which chronological order is temporarily abandoned and this feature of the story pursued to the end. Soon after the formation of the Grand Chapter P. G. H. Priest Smith, having in the meantime affiliated with Potomac Chapter and joined the dissatisfied members of that body in refusing to recognize the authority of the new Grand Chapter, was summoned to appear before that body to show cause why he should not be disciplined for such conduct, and upon his failure to do so was suspended.

Potomac Chapter still persisting in her opposition was, at the same time declared clandestine and irregular, whereupon said Chapter and Comp. Smith laid their greivances before G. G. H. Priest Lewis, who completely reversed his former position and upheld both complainants in their contentions, and declared the so-called Grand Chapter of R. A. Masons of the District of Columbia to have "no valid existence and therefore and hence to be irregular and clandestine," etc.

The General Grand Chapter, however, at its triennial convention in 1868, by resolution recognized this Grand Chapter as regular and its officers entitled to seats in that body, and at the same time passed another resolution permitting Potomac to remain under the G. G. Chapter, "but without territorial jurisdiction over candidates for the capitular degrees."

This unsatisfactory condition of affairs at once led to overtures from the Grand Chapter, and an expression of willingness to consider any proposition that Potomac might have to offer in regard to becoming a constituent member of the local Grand Chapter was embodied in a certain resolution, which, being read in Potomac Chapter, was promptly referred to the "Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia," that title being still, in spite of its act of separation, held by

the Maryland Grand Chapter until November, 1869, when finally relinquished, since which time the relations between the two bodies have been most amicable and fraternal.

This action of Potomac also repudiated the jurisdiction of the G. G. Chapter and served to still further complicate the peculiar tangle which continued until November 30, 1869, when said chapter addressed the Grand Chapter and expressed a desire to resume fraternal relations with the R. A. Masons of the District, which communication being favorably received, Potomac, at a special communication January 5, 1870, formally applied for and was granted a charter, and according to its request was given the No. 8, the same as its old charter, altho No. 7 was still vacant. After the adjustment of some unimportant differences of opinion between the new Chapter and the Grand Chapter in relation to the efforts of the G. Visitor and Lecturer to secure conformity with the District "work," Potomac Chapter, at last and for all time, became a full-fledged and active member of the local capitular family, and has been an honor to the jurisdiction ever since.

Returning now to the starting point of the digression, we find that at a resumed communication, May 24, 1867, the following day after the first meeting of the Grand Chapter as such, charters were granted to Eureka Chapter, No. 4, and LaFayette Chapter, No. 5, the first named with Comp. C. Smith as H. P.; Comp. A. Buchly, King, and Comp. E. B. MacGrotty, Scribe, and the latter with Comps. N. D. Larnier, N. P. Chipman, and J. B. Will in the corresponding offices in the order named. Both chapters were instituted June 1, 1867, and at once took front rank in the renewed activity of the period, and remain two of the largest and most influential chapters in the District.

At the May meeting charters were also issued to Columbia, No. 1, Washington, No. 2, and Mt. Vernon, No. 3, all of which have had unbroken careers of usefulness and prosperity.

The aggregate membership under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter in 1867 was 424, since which time there has



been a healthy and practically continuous growth, the aggregate in 1910 exceeding 3,600.

January 30, 1869, G. H. Priest B. B. French issued a dispensation to form a new chapter, to be known as Washington Naval Chapter, and to be located in the Navy Yard section, and at the semi-annual communication May 10, 1869, a charter was granted to said Chapter and the No. 6 assigned to it, with Comps. Andrew Glass, John A. Foos, and Jos. E. Porter named as H. P., King, and Scribe, respectively. This chapter was instituted May 26, 1869, and, being planted on Capitol Hill and somewhat isolated from the "down-town" bodies, at once became popular in the Eastern section, and altho more than forty years have elapsed, its territory has not been invaded, and it remains a healthy, active, prosperous chapter, and one of the notable Masonic institutions of that part of the city.

On August 12, 1870, P. G. H. Priest B. B. French, probably without a peer in this jurisdiction as a Masonic organizer, writer, jurist, and orator, passed away. His life is treated of elsewhere in these pages, and the perusal thereof is recommended to every companion.

November, 1872, a charter was granted to Mt. Horeb, No. 7, thus reversing the chronological value of the numbers, No. 8, as shown above, having been assigned to Potomac nearly two years before. The new chapter was instituted with considerable ceremony December 4, 1872, with Comps. Wm. R. Singleton as H. P.; George A. Abbott, as King, and L. D. Wine, as Scribe, and continues to this day as one of the most energetic, prosperous, and socially inclined chapters in the District.

It is worthy of note, as an encouraging indication of the standing of our local companions at the period, that in 1873 the Grand Chapter of Canada extended an invitation to La-Fayette Chapter of this city to visit that jurisdiction and exemplify the work of the R. A. degree, which invitation was accepted, the trip made, and the degree conferred, it goes without saying, in an eminently satisfactory manner.



*D. G. Dixon*

GRAND MASTER, 1895.



October 19, 1876, occurred the death of the first G. H. Priest of the jurisdiction, M. Ex. Comp. James Edward Frisbie Holmead. As G. Master in 1864 and G. H. Priest in 1867 he served the Craft with conspicuous ability, and stands out as one of the bright particular Masonic stars in the history of this jurisdiction. A detailed sketch of his life appears elsewhere in this work, and should prove an inspiration to the thoughtful reader.

Albert Gallatin Mackey, the eminent Masonic writer and jurist, P. G. H. P. of South Carolina, and P. G. G. H. P. of the G. G. Chapter of the United States, passed away in this city June 20, 1881, and was interred in Glenwood Cemetery. While his death was a serious loss to the Fraternity wherever dispersed, it came as a personal bereavement to most of the companions in this city, where for years he took an active part and interest in Capitular Masonry, and was personally well known.

P. G. H. Priest George B. Clark, who served the Grand Chapter as its presiding officer in 1876, departed this life December 10, 1883. His active service in all branches of Masonry rendered his death an appreciable loss to the local Craft.

February 21, 1885, the Grand Chapter, with M. Ex. Comp. George E. Corson, the present G. G. King of the G. G. Chapter, as G. H. Priest, joined the Grand Lodge in procession and assisted in the ceremony of dedicating the Washington Monument.

November 5, 1886, M. Ex. Comp. James Gozzler, G. H. P. of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia from 1858 to 1862, died in Georgetown, at an advanced age; and on January 10, 1889, M. Ex. Comp. James G. Smith, another veteran of the same Grand Chapter, serving as G. H. P. in 1866, at the time of the formation of the local Grand body, and who played an important part in the troubles incident thereto, passed away, and a page in the annual proceedings was devoted to his memory.

September 25, 1890, G. H. Priest Edwin S. Holmes, granted a dispensation to form a chapter at Brightwood, D.

C., and at the succeeding annual convocation a charter was ordered to issue to Brightwood Chapter, No. 9, naming Comps. Henry Yost as first H. P.; John Miller, as King, and J. Enos Ray, Scribe. The institution took place January 7, 1891, G. H. Priest Alexander McKenzie conducting the ceremony. Lying well out toward the northern boundary of the District, this chapter has drawn not only from the local field but from the nearby Maryland territory, through the reciprocity agreement between the jurisdictions, has had a gratifying growth and has fully justified its formation.

Death was particularly active in the ranks of the distinguished members of the Grand Chapter in the next few years, the following P. G. H. Priests passing to the Great Beyond: Joseph Daniels (G. H. P. 1872), April 12, 1892; James P. Pearson (1882), December 7, 1893; Abner Townsley Longley (1873), February 23, 1896; Robert Ball (1889), March 23, 1897; Isaac Larue Johnson (1877), December 28, 1899; Jeremiah C. Allen (1883), October 2, 1900; Noble Danforth Larner (1874-5 and P. G. G. H. P.), March 19, 1903; William G. Powers (1887), July 20, 1905; Charles H. Smith (1897), January 5, 1906; Thomas F. Gibbs (1892), January 30, 1906. George Harold Walker (1894), May 5, 1906; John Lockie (1871), May 14, 1907; James F. R. Appleby (1898), September 27, 1907, and José Maria Yznaga (1885), April 11, 1909, while the same period included the deaths of R. E. Comp. Lewis Guillam Stephens (P. Dep. G. H. P. and G. Sec. for twenty years), May 17, 1896; Ex. Comp. Joseph Brummett (author of "Brummett's Masonic Manual"), November 15, 1896; Ex. Comp. William Reynolds Singleton (Chairman of Committee on Correspondence 1886 to 1900), February 23, 1901; R. Ex. Comp. William H. Collins (P. Dep. G. H. P.), January 25, 1903, and R. Ex. Comp. Nathaniel B. Fugitt (G. Scribe 1908), June 10, 1908.

At the annual convocation of the Grand Chapter December 14, 1892, a petition in due form was received from, and a charter ordered to issue to, certain companions to form a chapter to be known as Hiram Chapter, No. 10, with Comps.

Martin R. Thorp, A. S. Taber, and Ira W. Hopkins as the first three officers, in the order named. This chapter, formed largely from the Mt. Horeb Chapter membership, had previously petitioned G. H. Priest Thomas Gibbs for a dispensation, which had been refused on the ground that such a defec-tion would seriously affect the latter chapter. The primary cause of the formation of the new chapter being simply a desire upon the part of the petitioners to remain at their old location, Nineteenth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W., and thereby keep in more effective touch with Hiram Lodge, with which the majority were affiliated, as opposed to the ac-tion of Mt. Horeb in seeking new quarters, was not a differ-ence of such a character as to long strain the relations be-tween the two bodies, which soon became of the most pleasant character, and the wisdom of the movement was at once dem-onstrated by both chapters entering upon an era of prosperity. The new chapter was formally instituted January 9, 1893.

At a special convocation held September 14, 1897, a charter was ordered to issue to sundry companions in the Northeast-ern section of the city to form and open a R. A. Chapter, to be known as Capitol Chapter, No. 11, to be located near the corner of Twelfth and H Streets, N. E., with Comps. Francis J. Woodman as the first H. P.; James A. Wetmore the first King; and Charles T. Caldwell the first Scribe. The chapter was duly instituted November 6, 1897, and at once entered upon a prosperous and useful career in a large, rapidly grow-ing, and otherwise unoccupied territory.

At the annual convocation held February 11, 1903, a charter was granted to twenty companions to form a Chapter to be known as Anacostia Chapter, No. 12, the first three officers named being Ex. Comp. Adolphus Gude and Comps. Robert Cook and Julius W. Tolson. The new chapter was instituted February 23, 1903, G. H. Priest George C. Ober officiating, and has continued to the present in a prosperous condition. Occupying, as it does, the lodge room of Anacostia Lodge, and being without competition in one of the largest of the suburbs, its growth and prosperity have been assured from the be-ginning.



The local Capitular family as thus constituted remains to this day. The peculiarly compact nature of the jurisdiction, bringing all allied Masonic bodies in unusually close touch with each other, has given to R. A. Masonry the opportunity to be a valuable helpmeet to the Symbolic branch in Washington in all the activities of Temple building and organized charity that have marked the last half century, and the relations between the two Grand bodies have always been of the most intimate and amicable character and of great mutual benefit.



GEORGE W. BAIRD,  
GRAND MASTER, 1896; CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE ON  
CORRESPONDENCE.



## CHAPTER XIX.

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### CRYPTIC MASONRY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

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GEORGE E. CORSON,

RECORDER OF WASHINGTON COUNCIL, No. 1, ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS,  
FOR TWENTY-THREE YEARS; PAST GRAND HIGH PRIEST; GENERAL  
GRAND KING, GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER, U. S. A.; PAST  
GRAND COMMANDER K. T., D. C., AND PAST  
J. G. W. OF THE GRAND LODGE.

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THE CRYPTIC DEGREES are first mentioned in the history of Masonic degrees in the District of Columbia in the records of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, which was organized in 1822. At the semi-annual convocation of the Grand Chapter, held June 9, 1829, the report of the Committee on Correspondence referred to a circular letter that had been sent by the Grand Chapter of Maryland to each Grand Chapter in the United States. This letter stated in effect (it is too long to quote in full here) that the unsettled state of the degree of Select Mason was a subject deemed of sufficient importance to claim the attention of the several Grand Chapters; that it was not recognized by the Grand Chapter of Maryland until the year 1824, when, it appearing evident that the Select degree had not only an intimate connection with, but was in a measure necessary, as preparatory to and elucidatory of that of the Royal Arch, it was required to be given by their subordinate chapters in its proper order, immediately preceding that of the Royal Arch; that they had learned with regret that

councils of Select Masons had been established in some of the States *independent of Royal Arch Masonry*, which they regarded as a great mistake and abuse of an authority delegated in relation to the Select degree, and that they recommended the subject to the consideration of the Grand Chapters, with the hope that they would see it to be for the general interest of the Craft "to take the degree under your recognizance and control, to whom it of right belongs."

This subject was referred by the Grand Chapter to a committee and the committee reported: "That they are decidedly of the opinion that the Royal and Select Master's degrees should be recognized by and conferred under the direction of the several Grand Chapters of the respective States and Territories of the Union. With regard to the proper time when these degrees should be conferred, whether before or after the Royal Arch degree, they declined to express an opinion, preferring that this point should be left to the determination of the General Grand Chapter." This report was laid on the table for the present, and when taken up again it was "*Resolved*, That the further consideration thereof be postponed till the first Tuesday in August next; and that in the meantime the Grand Secretary be directed to forward a copy of the report this day made on that subject to the several councils of Royal and Select Masters in the District of Columbia."

At the special convocation of the Grand Chapter, held August 31, 1829, the following appears:

Companion Baldwin, from the committee appointed by the Council of Royal and Select Masters of the City of Washington (which body had been addressed on the subject by the Grand Secretary, pursuant to order), presented to the Grand Chapter the following letter and report:

WASHINGTON, *August 31, 1829.*

At a special meeting of the Council of Royal and Select Masters, held at the Central Masonic Hall, on Saturday the 29th of August, instant, the written report having been presented and read, was, on motion, ordered to be transmitted to the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia at their next meeting.

I quote the following from the report of the committee of the council:

Your committee are confident, from an intimate acquaintance with all the degrees, that those of Royal and Select Masters are not only posterior in order to the Royal Arch, but that in our opinion it would not be consistent with ancient Masonry to make them previous. Whether the interests of the Craft would be promoted by this extended jurisdiction your committee are unable to say, but should that course be thought advisable by the General Grand Chapter, in its solemn deliberation, your committee are decidedly of the opinion that it can only be done under the following restrictions:

1. That the degrees of Royal and Select Masters can only be conferred on Royal Arch Masons.

2. No one can be an officer of any chapter who is not both a Royal and Select Master.

Without these restrictions your committee can never consent to a change in the present established mode of proceeding.

The report of the committee made at the June convocation of the Grand Chapter was taken up and adopted and a copy thereof, and also a copy of the report of the committee of the council, was transmitted to the General Grand Secretary, to be laid before the General Grand Chapter. Companion Josiah H. Drummond, Past General Grand High Priest, in speaking of the convocation of the General Grand Chapter, held in 1829, says (see Gould's History of Freemasonry, Vol. iv, pp. 540-541): "But the business which was of the most importance was the action in relation to the council degrees; a communication was made by Comp. Stapleton, of Maryland, in relation to these degrees, but it was based upon an entire misapprehension of the origin, history, and existing *status* of those degrees, as more recent investigation has fully demonstrated. But the General Grand Chapter, acting under the same misapprehension, by resolution and without mentioning the degrees in its constitution, advised the council 'to place the degrees under the authority of the State Grand Chapters,' and authorized the Grand Chapters to make arrangements for conferring the degrees, but only by consent of the Grand Council, in any State in which a Grand Council existed at that time." Comp. Drummond further says: "The council degrees, after the action already given, continued to be a subject of discussion and difference, and in 1853 the matter was



referred to an able committee, which reported that they had examined the various reports which had been made upon the subject in various State jurisdictions, and found, in substance, that the belief that the degrees were 'within the pale of the jurisdiction of Royal Arch Masonry' was based upon misapprehension; and that the General Grand Chapter had no jurisdiction over them: A resolution embodying this conclusion was adopted."

We have no records or accounts whatever in the District of Columbia as to what became of the "council"—or "councils," if more than one—referred to above. The chapters in this District continued to confer the Royal and Select degrees prior to the Royal Arch until 1833, when the Grand Chapter was dissolved. Several of the chapters again joined the Grand Chapter of Maryland, under whose authority they formerly worked, and the council degrees continued to be conferred prior to the Royal Arch until May 23, 1867, when the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia was again organized, and on that day the New Grand Chapter, by resolution, unanimously dropped those degrees from the curriculum of the chapter work. Soon after the organization of the Grand Chapter, in 1867, Companion Benjamin B. French, the Inspector General of the Southern Jurisdiction for the A. A. Scottish Rite for the District of Columbia, issued three dispensations to form three new councils of Royal and Select Masters in the District of Columbia. Those who had received the degrees of Royal and Select Masters in regularly organized councils refused to join in this movement, and the question was soon agitated as to the legality and propriety of thus inaugurating a new method of propagating the Cryptic degrees, with the result that these three councils quickly gave up the ghost, and there now remains but little more than tradition respecting them. When the time was deemed judicious Companion William R. Singleton and eight other regularly made council Masons petitioned the Grand Council of Massachusetts for a dispensation to open and hold a council of Royal and Select Masters in the District of Columbia. This was granted Au-

gust 1, 1870, and on October 3, 1870, the officers of the Grand Council of Massachusetts came to Washington and organized LaFayette Council, with Companion William R. Singleton as Most Illustrious Grand Master. Inasmuch as the great body of Royal and Select Masters in the District had received the degrees of Royal and Select Masters in their several chapters prior to the Royal Arch, it was decided by LaFayette Council that all such Royal Arch Masons, as well as those who had never received the council degrees, should have the degrees for a nominal sum (five dollars). Accordingly, in two nights' assemblies, the Grand Officers of Massachusetts conferred the Royal, Select, and Super-Excellent degrees upon 158 R. A. Masons. A charter was granted to LaFayette Council by the Grand Council of Massachusetts December 14, 1870, and it was instituted under its charter December 20, 1870, and started with flying colors, and enjoyed a fair degree of prosperity for several years, when from internal dissensions the members lost their interest and ceased to attend the assemblies, and the council passed out of existence.

At a convention held at Detroit, Michigan, in August, 1880, by the representatives of several Grand Councils, a General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters for the United States of America was organized, officers elected and a constitution adopted, which was submitted to the several Grand Councils for approval, and on February 17, 1881, the General Grand Council became a fixed fact, as on that date, the ninth Grand Council in number, that of Louisiana, ratified the General Grand Constitution.

On June 30, 1883, Josiah H. Drummond, General Grand Master of the General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the United States of America, issued a dispensation for a council at Washington, D. C., under the name of Washington Council, upon the petition of Joseph S. McCoy, William R. Singleton, and eight other well-known companions, formerly members of the late LaFayette Council. The first assembly of Washington Council under this dispensation was held in the office of the Grand Secretary of the Grand

Lodge, in Masonic Temple, on the evening of July 16, 1883. The officers and companions present at this assembly were: Joseph S. McCoy, Th. Ill. Master; Samuel Baxter, Right Ill. Dep. Master; Jeremiah C. Allen, Ill. Prin. Cond. of the Work; William M. Ireland, Lewis G. Stephens, Joseph Hamacher, Claudius B. Smith, Edward Fitzki, and William R. Singleton, who acted as Recorder. Three other assemblies were held while the council was U. D., viz: on July 21, July 27, and August 6, 1883, and at these assemblies eight companions were proposed for, and elected and received the degrees of Royal and Select Master. At the First Triennial Assembly of the General Grand Council, held at Denver, Colorado, August 14, 1883, a charter was granted by that body to the following named companions, "authorizing and empowering them to open and hold a council in Washington, D. C., under the name and title of Washington Council, No. 1, of Royal and Select Masters of the District of Columbia," viz: Joseph S. McCoy, Samuel Baxter, Jeremiah C. Allen, James Lansburgh, William R. Singleton, Claudius B. Smith, Joseph Hamacher, Edward Fitzki, Lewis G. Stephens, William M. Ireland, James H. Trimble, Howard M. Gillman, Charles B. R. Colledge, Harrison Dingman, Geo. Edgar Corson, Randolph Beresford, George W. Howland, and Henry A. Griswold. Through some delay in the delivery of the charter, Washington Council was not constituted and set to work until the 31st day of March, 1887. On that date Geo. L. McCahan, of Baltimore, G. G. Marshal of the G. G. Council, acting for the General Grand Master, constituted the council and installed its officers as follows: Samuel Baxter, T. I. M.; J. C. Allen, R. I. D. M.; H. Dingman, I. P. C. W.; James Lansburgh, Treasurer; Geo. E. Corson, Recorder; Edward Fitzki, Captain of the Guard; Joseph Hamacher, Cond. of the Council; C. B. Smith, Chaplain. Of the officers installed upon this occasion but three are now living, Companion Dingman, a Past Master of the council, and Companions Lansburgh and Corson, who have been continued as Treasurer and Recorder, respectively, to the present time.

Steps were immediately taken to affiliate the members of the late LaFayette Council, who were in good standing when the charter of that council was arrested, and a dispensation was obtained from the General Grand Master for that purpose, and a large number of them became members of Washington Council. Several companions who had received the Royal and Select degrees in their respective chapters, when said degrees were conferred under the authority of the Grand Chapter, desiring to affiliate with Washington Council, their wishes were made known by direction of the council to the General Grand Master, who authorized the council to accept and "heal" them upon their presenting "a certificate from the body that made them, which may be regarded in the light of a dinit." A number of companions were admitted to membership in Washington Council under this decision. A larger number would have availed themselves of this privilege, but unfortunately some of the old chapters could not furnish the required certificates, as their records failed to show that the degrees of Royal Master and of Select Master had been conferred upon their members. During the twenty-three years of its existence the following named companions have served Washington Council as Thrice Illustrious Masters, for the years designated: Samuel Baxter, 1887; Jeremiah C. Allen, 1888; Harrison Dingman, 1889; Joseph Hamacher, 1890; Alex. H. Holt, 1891; William Oscar Roome, 1892; E. H. Chamberlin, 1893; James H. Wardle, 1894; George H. Walker, 1895; Walter B. Pettus, 1896; Charles H. Smith, 1897; A. M. Lambeth, 1898; David M. Cridler, 1899; James H. McIntosh, 1900 and 1903; Jacobus S. Jones, 1901; Claude F. King, 1902; Ernest H. Daniel, 1904; Roger O'Donnell, 1905 and 1906; William T. Hastings, 1907; John A. Colborn, 1908; Lafayette Leaman, 1909; August B. Douglas, 1910.

The possession of the Cryptic degrees not being a prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood, the growth of the Cryptic Rite in the District of Columbia has been slow, but of a substantial and most gratifying character, as the degrees have been sought for largely by those who have desired to extend

and increase their knowledge by receiving "further light in Masonry." The names of ten Grand Masters, eighteen Grand High Priests, and six Grand Commanders, with a hundred others of less official rank, have appeared, and the most of them still appear, on the roll of members of Washington Council. The work of building up the council and of popularizing and propagating the Cryptic degrees has not been at all times of an encouraging character. In 1897, owing to the bankrupt condition of the council, and the lack of interest on the part of its members, it was proposed that its charter be surrendered, but at a summoned assembly this proposition, after due deliberation, was unanimously defeated. The members aroused from their lethargy, renewed their zeal and interest, and soon placed the council on a sound, safe footing and in a prosperous condition, and since then the council has gained largely in numbers, influence, and popularity, because of the ability, energy, and zeal displayed by many of its officers and the increased interest of its members. Its assemblies are made attractive, interesting, and enjoyable by the use of the proper paraphernalia for the conferring of the degrees and instructing the candidates in their sublime lessons and teachings; by the beauty and impressiveness of the work, and by that good-fellowship and sociability by which they are invariably characterized.

The state of the Cryptic Rite in the District of Columbia was, however, for many years in a large measure that of satisfied indifference. There being but one council, it left the propagation of the Rite in the hands of a small number. These few, about the year 1905, saw that the trouble lay in the need for more workers, and decided that the only feasible way to increase the corps of workers and enlarge the field of usefulness of the Rite was through the organization of a new council.

The representatives of Washington Council who attended the Ninth Triennial Assembly of the General Grand Council, in Boston, Mass., in 1906, witnessed an excellent and impressive rendition of one of the Cryptic degrees by Boston Council, and the report of these representatives, on their return, lent





**MATTHEW TRIMBLE,**  
GRAND MASTER, 1897; GRAND HIGH PRIEST, 1879-1880.





momentum to the efforts already being put forth, with the result that Companions Louis A. Dent and John Speed Smith, with several other members of Washington Council, were requested to take up the work preparatory to the organization of another council. These companions secured the signatures of twenty-seven members of Washington Council to a petition for a dispensation to form a new council. Washington Council gave to this petition its cordial approval and recommendation.

With this petition before him, on September 2, 1907, the General Grand Master of the General Grand Council, Henry Clay Larrabee, issued his dispensation to the following named companions to form and open a council of Royal and Select Masters in the District of Columbia, to be known as Adoniram Council, viz: E. St. Clair Thompson, Louis A. Dent, Henry B. Mirick, John Speed Smith, Dan C. Vaughan, Charles E. Baldwin, Jacob W. Collins, Herman E. Malzahn, Francis J. Phillips, Harry M. Luckett, Isaac B. Field, Roe Fulkerson, William H. McCray, Theodore T. Moore, Walter B. Pettus, August B. Coolidge, Lem. Towers, Jr., John H. Small, Claude F. King, Alexander Gordon, Jr., Harry G. Kimball, Henry C. Duncan, Harrison Dingman, James A. Wetmore, William W. Jermane, and Arthur F. Bloomer, and designated E. St. Clair Thompson, Master; John Speed Smith, Deputy Master, and William W. Jermane, Principal Conductor.

At the assembly for organization, on September 17, 1907, the Master appointed Henry B. Mirick, Treasurer; Claude F. King, Recorder; Roe Fulkerson, Captain of the Guard; Dan C. Vaughan, Conductor of the Council, and Louis A. Dent, Steward.

Adoniram Council entered at once upon a bright and prosperous career. At the end of its first year, August 31, 1908, it had forty-six names upon its roll.

On September 16, 1909, it petitioned the General Grand Council for a charter, and directed its Master, E. St. Clair Thompson, to attend the coming Triennial Assembly of the

General Grand Council and use every effort to secure the same.

At the Tenth Triennial Assembly of the General Grand Council, held in the City of Savannah, Ga., November 9, 1909, a charter was unanimously granted to "Adoniram Council, No. 2, Royal and Select Masters of the District of Columbia." At the date of its charter the council numbered eighty-six members.

On the evening of December 16, 1909, in the Knights Templar Asylum of the new Masonic Temple, Adoniram Council, No. 2, was constituted under its charter by M. P. Companion Henry Clay Larrabee, Past General Grand Master of the General Grand Council, and the following named officers were duly elected and installed: E. St. Clair Thompson, Master; Jacob W. Collins, Deputy Master; William W. Jermane, Principal Conductor; Charles E. Baldwin, Treasurer; Claude F. King, Recorder; Dan C. Vaughan, Captain of the Guard; Carey S. Frye, Conductor of the Council; Roe Fulkerson, Steward.

The two councils, Washington, No. 1, and Adoniram, No. 2, are working together in perfect concord and harmony in the advancement of the Cryptic Rite and in the diffusion of its sublime teachings and principles, looking hopefully forward to the day when other councils shall spring up and join them in the good work, and when a Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters will be numbered among the governing Masonic bodies in the District of Columbia.

## CHAPTER XX.

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### THE ORDERS OF CHRISTIAN KNIGHTHOOD IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

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ARVINE W. JOHNSTON,

GRAND RECORDER OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY, K. T., OF THE DISTRICT  
OF COLUMBIA.

The history of Chivalric Masonry in the District of Columbia dates from December 1, 1824, when ten Sir Knights assembled in the City of Washington for the purpose of forming an encampment of Knights Templar. It is to be presumed that this "assembly," as it was called, was held under dispensation, as otherwise its proceedings would be without justification in the light of modern Masonic jurisprudence, but, singularly enough, the records afford no evidence of such authority. Sir James Cushman presided as "Most Eminent Grand Commander," and on his right sat William Winston Seaton, Mayor of Washington and congressional printer, distinguished alike in the political and Masonic annals of the Capital City.

Petitions were received from two companions, who were balloted upon, elected and invested with the Orders forthwith. A Sir Knight who was "unknown to the members" and "unable to manifest his faith" was "formally healed" as a preliminary to his admission as a visitor. Truly this inchoate body exercised remarkable powers.

At the assembly of January 4, 1825, it was resolved that "the style and title of this encampment shall be Washington Encampment, No. 1." A committee was appointed to draft

by-laws, and the fee for the Orders was fixed at twenty-five dollars. The election of the first officers was held, resulting in the choice of Nicholas Blasdell as Most Eminent Grand Commander. A petition for a charter, bearing the date of this assembly, was presented "to the Most Eminent Henry Fowle, Esq., Deputy Grand Master of the General Grand Encampment of the United States." On January 14, 1825, Most Eminent Sir Fowle issued a charter to the petitioners to form "Washington Encampment," by which designation the body was known for about thirty years, when it was changed to Washington Commandery, No. 1.

The first assembly under the charter was held April 6, 1825, when a committee was appointed to inquire into the probable cost of the "dress" of the Sir Knights, which is described as "a sash and apron." The "old black uniform" which has played so prominent a part in the history of the present Washington Commandery is probably an evolution of this "dress." Soon after by-laws were adopted, providing for quarterly assemblies and fixing the annual dues at fifty cents. We learn from the old records that the Encampment was given a roving commission by the Grand Encampment, and held its assemblies alternately in Washington and Georgetown. In 1828 it attended divine services at St. John's church in honor of the memory of Grand Master DeWitt Clinton. In 1829 it participated in the celebration at Baltimore of the building of the first railroad. In 1830 it united with the Grand Lodge of Virginia in ceremonies at Alexandria and Mount Vernon in honor of the memory of Washington. From the year after its organization the encampment struggled for existence against the fanatical persecution of Masonry which followed the disappearance of Morgan. In 1835, weary of the long conflict, it discontinued its assemblies, and for twelve years its banners were furled and its tapers extinguished. At this time thirty-eight members were borne on its roll.

In 1847 eleven fraters, inspired by the zeal of one of their number, the illustrious Benjamin Brown French, joined in a petition to Sir Joseph K. Stapleton, Deputy Grand Master of



HOME OF TAKOMA LODGE, NO. 29, TAKOMA PARK, D. C.



MEETING PLACE OF KING DAVID LODGE, NO. 28, BROOKLAND, D. C.





the Grand Encampment, for a dispensation to revive Washington Encampment, which was issued April 22, 1847. On the 24th of the same month the reorganization was effected by the election of a line of officers. Sir Benjamin B. French was chosen Most Eminent Grand Commander, and continued in that station, with an interval of one year, until 1859, when he retired to become Most Eminent Grand Master of Temp-lars. His administrative genius laid the foundation on which the splendid superstructure of Washington Commandery, No. 1, has been reared. It was during his service in the chair that the name of the body was changed from "Encampment" to "Commandery."

The commandery took part in the ceremonies of the laying of the cornerstone of the monument to Washington in 1848, and was present at the dedication of that imposing obelisk in 1885. It acted as escort in the funeral procession of President Lincoln in 1865, assisted in like duty when the remains of President Garfield were removed from the Capitol to the depot in 1881, and, with the other commanderies, was in line in the procession which escorted the remains of President McKinley from the White House to the Capitol in 1901.

The limits of this article preclude narration of the many pilgrimages and other events in which the commandery has taken part. Conservative, yet progressive, it bears upon its roll the names of many representative men in the professional, business and social life of the city, and many whose fame has gone beyond the limits of the jurisdiction. Among the latter we find the leonine Benjamin B. French; Albert Pike, soldier, poet, philosopher, Grand Commander of the Southern jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite; the brilliant Charles F. Stansbury, whose masterly defense of the "old black uniform" thrilled the Grand Encampment at New Orleans in 1874; Albert G. Mackey, eminent Masonic jurist; George C. Whiting, the able, earnest and eloquent Grand Master of Masons; and William R. Singleton, the veteran Grand Secretary and Masonic writer. One of its Past Commanders, Harrison Dingman, was Grand Captain of the Guard of the Grand Encamp-

ment in 1907-1910. The strength of the commandery at the present time is 539 members.

In the throes of civil war, when Washington was a vast military camp, another commandery was born. January 13, 1863, a dispensation was granted by Most Eminent Grand Master Benjamin B. French to twenty-one Sir Knights to form Columbia Commandery, No. 2, and his action was ratified by the Grand Encampment on September 17, 1865, when a charter was granted.

Born in an atmosphere of strife, Columbia Commandery has ever been imbued with an ardent military spirit. In the spirit of Napoleon's saying, "there are no Alps," the commandery has planned and carried out many large enterprises in the face of seemingly insurmountable difficulties. Foremost in every undertaking that enlists the energies of Christian Knighthood, its pluck, ambition, and progressiveness have won for it a commanding position among the Templar bodies of the world. Its record of triennial pilgrimages is unbroken from St. Louis in 1868 to Chicago in 1910. At Pittsburg it had the honor of being the special escort of Grand Master Warren LaRue Thomas. Two of its Past Commanders have been chosen as officers of the Grand Encampment—Myron M. Parker as Grand Sword Bearer 1889-1892, and Frank H. Thomas as Grand Captain of the Guard 1895-1898, Grand Junior Warden 1901-1904, and Grand Captain General 1904-1907. Many distinguished names are borne on the roster of Columbia Commandery, among whom may be mentioned President James A. Garfield, who was knighted by the commandery in 1865, and whose remains were escorted by his fraters from Washington to Cleveland; Ben: Perley Poore, the eminent journalist, who was the first commander under dispensation; Gen. H. C. Corbin, Chief of Staff, U. S. A., and Rear Admiral Winfield Scott Schley, the hero of Santiago Bay. The membership of the commandery is 615.

Potomac Commandery, No. 3, planted its banners in Georgetown under dispensation in 1870, and was chartered by the Grand Encampment September 22, 1871. While its

jurisdiction, in common with other commanderies, extends over the District of Columbia, its distance from the centers of activity has limited its actual field of operations to West Washington, as old Georgetown is now called, a section largely dominated by an influence inimical to Masonry. But "*nil desperandum*" is the motto of this plucky little commandery, and after many years of warfare it bids fair to reap the rewards its valor and constancy have earned. It has now a membership of 143.

De Molay Mounted Commandery, No. 4, was organized under dispensation February 19, 1872, and chartered December 3, 1874. Its charter membership was drawn from among the substantial business men of the city, and the accessions to its ranks have come from the same class. The commandery is distinguished for open handed charity and genuine, knightly hospitality, and excels in the cultivation of the social features of the Order. In its peculiar nomenclature it numbers 186 "saddles."

The long-felt want of a commandery in the populous eastern section of the city led to the formation of Orient Commandery, No. 5. Chartered by the Grand Encampment August 29, 1895, without a previous existence under dispensation, it entered at once upon a career of phenomenal prosperity. Starting with a charter membership of 30, in the first year of its existence its ranks were increased to 82, and at its last return it numbered 260 swords. Young, vigorous and enthusiastic, this commandery looks forward to a future as full of promise as the past has been of success.

The event of greatest magnitude in the annals of Templary in the District of Columbia was the Twenty-fourth Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment, which was held in Washington October 8-11, 1889. A Triennial Committee, composed of eleven members from each of the four commanderies then in existence, was appointed to arrange for the reception and entertainment of the Grand Encampment and visiting commanderies and Sir Knights, and was organized with the following officers: Myron M. Parker, chairman;

George E. Corson, vice-chairman; Thomas Somerville, treasurer; Harrison Dingman, corresponding secretary; Warren H. Orcutt, recording secretary. Sub-committees were also appointed with chairmen as follows: Executive, Myron M. Parker; reception, William G. Moore; finance, James E. Waugh; transportation, Edward H. Chamberlin; printing, George Gibson; hotels, Allison Nailor, Jr.; halls and decorations, John H. Olcott; levee, George W. Evans; excursions, William B. Easton; carriages, Edward Turkenton; music, Robert Ball; badges, James P. Pearson; theaters, Orrin G. Staples; press, Myron M. Parker; horses and horse equipments, Martin R. Thorp; barbecue, George W. Pratt; exhibition drill, Robert T. Hieston. A guaranty fund of \$22,650 was raised by a contribution by each commandery of a sum equal to \$25 for each member on its roll. Under the capable direction of Chairman Parker and Secretary Dingman the general committee and the several sub-committees successfully planned and carried out the stupendous work of caring for the comfort of one hundred thousand visitors and providing them with a knightly, generous and hospitable entertainment.

October 8, an ideal autumn day, witnessed the largest and most brilliant pageant known in the history of the Order when 24,000 Knights Templar marched on Pennsylvania Avenue to Washington Circle, and thence on K Street to Tenth Street, under the command of Myron M. Parker as chief marshal. The parade was organized in twelve grand divisions, and there were in line the Grand Encampment, thirty-seven Grand Commanderies, two hundred and fifty-eight commanderies, seven battalions, three Canadian Preceptories and one hundred bands. It was reviewed by President Harrison from a stand in front of the White House, and by Grand Master Charles Roome and staff from a stand at Tenth and K Streets.

From the chartering of Washington Encampment in 1825 to the chartering of Orient Commandery in 1895, the Templar bodies of the District of Columbia were borne on the rolls of the Grand Encampment. In the fall of 1895 the five commanderies, believing that their interests would be better served



SAMUEL C. PALMER,  
GRAND MASTER, 1898.





by a governing body of their own creation, voted to form a Grand Commandery, and through their representatives petitioned Most Eminent Grand Master Warren LaRue Thomas for a warrant for that purpose, which was issued December 2, 1895.

January 14, 1896, the seventy-first anniversary of the charter of Washington Encampment, the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar and the Appendant Orders of the District of Columbia was constituted, Grand Master Thomas presiding over the ceremonies and installing the officers. The veteran Noble D. Larner, who had received all the honors of Masonry that could be conferred in the District of Columbia, and had presided over the General Grand Chapter of the United States, was chosen the first Grand Commander, and has been succeeded in the office in turn by Frank H. Thomas, Rezin W. Darby, Eldred G. Davis, William T. Galliher, Harrison Dingman, George Gibson, George E. Corson, Alexander McKenzie, Andrew W. Kelley, Bennett A. Allen, William F. Hunt, Thomas P. Morgan, William H. H. Cissel, Walter H. Klopfer, and George C. Ober.

In the organization of the Grand Commandery the commanderies enjoy the benefits of "home-rule," which is unknown in the political government of the District of Columbia. Remote from the Grand Encampment, the commanderies formerly legislated for themselves, with the result that there was frequently lack of uniformity in their regulations and sometimes a misconstruction of the Constitution and Statutes. But under the supervision of the Grand Commandery the constituent bodies have been brought into closer relations with each other, uniformity of dress and equipments has been established, inspections have been instituted, and the regulations of the Grand Encampment have been rightly construed and enforced.

According to date of organization the Grand Commandery is No. 42 in the list of 47 Grand Commanderies on the register of the Grand Encampment, but in the number of members returned (1,843) it stands No. 26, and in average membership

of commanderies (366) it is No. 1. The growth of Templar Masonry, from fourteen Sir Knights under Grand Commander Nicholas Blasdell in 1825 to 1,843 Sir Knights under Grand Commander George C. Ober in 1910, has kept pace with the growth of Washington from the straggling village in the first quarter of the nineteenth century to the magnificent city in the first decade of the twentieth. The possibilities of the expansion of the Order in the future are beyond calculation.

## CHAPTER XXI.

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### THE SCOTTISH RITE IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

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WM. L. BOYDEN, 33° HON., LIBRARIAN SUPREME COUNCIL,  
33°.

The introduction of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite into the District of Columbia may be said to have begun when the Supreme Council for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States elected Brother Benjamin Brown French to receive the Thirty-third degree of Sovereign Grand Inspector General and an active member of the Supreme Council for the District of Columbia, he being on the 12th day of December, 1859, duly invested with that degree by the Sovereign Grand Commander, General Albert Pike. Brother French was an active worker in the York Rite, having been Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, Grand High Priest of Maryland and the District of Columbia, Grand Master and Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, and subsequently General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter of the United States. He ultimately became Lieutenant Grand Commander of the Supreme Council for the Southern Jurisdiction.

In the spring of 1860, Brother Pike conferred the several degrees of the Rite from the 4th to the 32d, inclusive, upon Brothers George C. Whiting, William D. Haley, John G. F. Holston, Gustavus A. Schwarzman, Christopher Ingle, Joseph W. Nairn, William G. Parkhurst, Aaron Van Camp, Ezra L. Stevens, Goff Alfred Hall, and Peter P. Pitchlyn. Bro. Haley,

after having the degrees communicated to him, received authority from Brother Pike to confer the same upon several others who could not be present at the several meetings called by the Grand Commander.

On the 22d of June, 1860, Bro. Pike issued Letters Patent, constituting the Grand Consistory of Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret, 32d degree, the members forming this body being those above mentioned and Benjamin Brown French, 33°, Ben Perley Poore, 33°, Samuel T. Schugert, 32°, and Aaron H. Palmer, 32°. The officers were installed the same day by Brother Pike, and on June 28th a complimentary banquet was given by the consistory in honor of the Grand Commander. The officers of the consistory were George C. Whiting, 33°, John G. F. Holston, 32°, Christopher Ingle, 32°, Ben Perley Poore, 33°, Wm. D. Haley, 33°, G. A. Schwarzman, 33°, Samuel C. Schugert, 32°, Wm. G. Parkhurst, 32°, Joseph W. Nairn, 32°, Ezra L. Stevens, 32°, Peter P. Pitchlyn, 32°, Goff Alfred Hall, 32°, B. B. French, 33°, Aaron H. Palmer, 32°. January 22, 1861, an election was held, resulting in the re-election of all of the above officers, and they were duly installed on the 28th of the same month by the Grand Commander.

The Grand Consistory having issued Letters Patent for a Lodge of Perfection, 14th degree, to be called Osiris Lodge of Perfection, No. 1, the same was formed on the evening of June 22, 1860, the first three officers being Christopher Ingle, Ezra L. Stevens, and William G. Parkhurst.

These bodies held their meetings in the Masonic Hall, corner of Ninth and D Streets, Northwest, and did considerable work, Brother Ingle, who is still living at this writing, receiving for his excellent services the Honorary 33d degree at the hands of the Supreme Council in 1861. The last meeting of the consistory was held April 5th, 1861. The great Civil War, which commenced in the month of April of this year, closed the doors of both Osiris Lodge of Perfection and the Grand Consistory of the District of Columbia.

On January 19, 1867, Brothers B. B. French, 33°, George

C. Whiting, 33°, Christopher Ingle, 33°, and Ben Perely Poore, 33°, met at the "Club House," corner of Fifteenth and H Streets, Northwest, at eight o'clock P. M., to consider the status of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in the District of Columbia. They agreed to do all they could to revive the Rite. Altho Osiris Lodge of Perfection and the Grand Consistory had a quasi existence at this time, they evidently did little or no work, for we find Brother French, the Active 33d, assisted by some of the other brethren, conferring and communicating the degrees at various times and places on worthy Master Masons, the most notable one being the President of the United States, Brother Andrew Johnson, who received the degrees from the 4th to the 32d, inclusive, at the White House, on June 20th, 1867, remarking that the doctrines inculcated were such as he had been practicing and preaching all his life.

May 20th, 1870, Brother French appointed Bro. Joseph Thomas Brown, 33°, Hon., his deputy for the District, and on the death of Bro. French, which occurred August 12, 1870, Bro. Pike appointed him Special Deputy for the District of Columbia.

On December 16, 1870, the following brethren met at the Masonic Hall, with a view to the organization of a Lodge of Perfection, the Letters Patent of Osiris Lodge of Perfection having been recalled by the Supreme Council: Christopher Ingle, Joshua Otis Stanton, George D. Patten, Wm. M. Ireland, James B. Gibbs, Charles T. Nutze, Benj. S. Hedrick, Richard S. Olcott, Leonard Stoddard, James F. Wollard, Henry C. Barr, George A. Hall, John J. Bell, James Gozler, Clement W. Bennett, George W. Balloch, Joseph W. Nairn, Abner T. Longley, Joseph Daniels, Upton H. Ridenour, John G. F. Holston, Morton P. Chipman, Ben Perley Poore, and Thomas L. Tullock. Albert Pike was present and presided at the meeting, while Albert G. Mackey acted as secretary. A motion was adopted by the brethren organizing themselves into a Lodge of Perfection, to be known as Mithras Lodge of Perfection, No. 2, subsequently changed to No. 1. A petition



was prepared praying for Letters of Constitution, which being granted, the brethren, on December 30, 1870, assembled in the Commandery Room of the Masonic Temple, when the lodge was duly constituted by the Grand Commander, assisted by the Secretary General, Albert G. Mackey.

December 7, 1871, a Council of Princes of Jerusalem, 15th and 16th degrees, was constituted, under the name of Kedron Council, No. 1, with the following officers: Joseph Daniels, 32°, Illustrious Tarshartha; Thomas L. Tullock, 32°, Venerable High Priest; Joshua O. Stanton, 32°, Excellent Scribe; Abner T. Longley, 32°, Enlightened Warden; George H. Moore, 32°, Enlightened Junior Warden; Clement W. Bennett, 32°, Illustrious Almoner; Charles A. Appel, 32°, Ill. Keeper of Seals and Records; Joseph W. Nairn, 32°, Ill. Treasurer.

At the same meeting, December 7, 1871, a chapter of Rose Croix, 17th and 18th degrees, was constituted in the parlor of the Chapter Chamber, Masonic Temple, under the name of Evangelist Chapter, No. 1, the officers elected being Joshua O. Stanton, 32°, Wise Master; Clement W. Bennett, 32°, Senior Warden; Luther H. Pike, 32°, Junior Warden; Wm. M. Ireland, 32°, Orator; Abner T. Longley, 32°, Almoner; Charles A. Appel, 32°, Secretary, and Joseph W. Nairn, 32°, Treasurer. The Council of Princes of Jerusalem was subsequently merged into Evangelist Chapter, so that the latter included the degrees from the 15th to the 18th, inclusive.

On December 11, 1873, the Special Deputy for the District of Columbia, Bro. Wm. M. Ireland, 33°, convened a meeting in the Commandery Room of the Masonic Temple, for the purpose of organizing a Council of Kadosh, 30th degree. A council was duly organized, and was constituted January 29, 1874, under the name of Robert De Bruce Council, No. 1, with the following officers: Wm. M. Ireland, 33°, Eminent Commander; Luther H. Pike, 32°, Eminent Prior; Crawford C. Adams, 32°, E. Preceptor; Abner T. Longley, 32°, E. Chancellor; Wm. R. Singleton (at that time 30°), E. Orator; Clement W. Bennett, 32°, E. Almoner; Henry J. Martin, 30°.

E. Recorder; Jonathan M. Smith, 30°, E. Treasurer. Bro. Pike constituted this body, assisted by Albert G. Mackey, Secretary General. Bro. Wm. R. Singleton (afterwards a 33° Hon.), the Orator, delivered an impressive oration on this occasion.

Upon the written request of Ill. Bro. Wm. M. Ireland, 33°, and Ill. Clement W. Bennett, 33°, addressed to the 32d degree Masons residing in the District of Columbia, the following brethren assembled at Scottish Rite Sanctuary, corner of Seventh and D Streets, N. W., at 7.30 o'clock P. M., January 6, 1876: Albert Pike, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander; Wm. M. Ireland, 33°, Clement W. Bennett, 33°, Christopher Ingle, 33°, James B. Gibbs, 32°, Benjamin S. Hedrick, 32°, Abner T. Longley, 32°, Joshua O. Stanton, 32°, Luther H. Pike, 32°, Crawford C. Adams, 32°, Henry J. Martin, 32°, Jonathan M. Smith, 32°, Leonard Stoddard, Jr., 32°, Wm. R. Singleton, 32°, Frederick Widdows, 32°, John B. Dawson, 32°, Charles T. Nutze, 32°, Allen Wall, 32°, Ezra L. Stevens, 32°, Philip R. Wilson, 32°, Edwin B. MacGrotty, 32°, and John B. Wadsworth, 32°. Upon motion of Bro. Hedrick, the members decided to organize a consistory, 32d degree, and a committee was appointed to select a name, and, reporting the same evening, they decided upon the name Albert Pike Consistory, which recommendation was unanimously adopted, and they proceeded to the election of officers, with the following result: Clement W. Bennett, Commander in Chief; Joshua O. Stanton, Seneschal; Luther H. Pike, Preceptor; Abner T. Longley, Constable; John B. Dawson, Admiral; Crawford C. Adams, Minister of State; Allen Wall, Chancellor; James B. Gibbs, Almoner; Henry J. Martin, Registrar; Philip R. Wilson, Treasurer. The consistory was duly constituted on January 12, 1876.

October 20, 1880, Dr. John Mills Browne, Surgeon General of the United States Navy, was crowned an active member of the Supreme Council, 33d degree, and Inspector General for the District of Columbia. He was Past Grand Master, Past Grand High Priest, and Past Grand Master of the Grand Con-

sistory, 32d degree, of California. The Rite made rapid strides under his able administration.

Upon his recommendation, Orient Lodge of Perfection, No. 2, 14th degree, was constituted, January 12, 1885, with Dr. Thomas G. Loockermann, 33°, Master; Frederick W. Ritter, 32°, Senior Warden, and George E. Corson, 32° (now a 33d Hon.), Junior Warden. This body held its meetings in the Masonic Hall, Georgetown, and continued working for about eighteen years, when it surrendered its charter in November, 1902, the members affiliating with Mithras Lodge of Perfection, No. 1.

It was in the Chapter Chamber of the Masonic Hall that James A. Garfield, afterwards President of the United States, applied for the Scottish Rite degrees, his petition being received on April 4, 1871, elected May 2, 1871, receiving the 4th and 5th degrees the same date, and the intermediate degrees between that time and January 2, 1872, when he received the 14th degree, beyond which he did not go.

After the death of John Mills Browne, the active member for the District of Columbia, the then Grand Commander, Thomas H. Caswell, November 4, 1895, appointed Francis J. Woodman, 33° Honorary, Deputy and Legate of the Supreme Council for the District of Columbia. Bro. Woodman continued as Deputy until the present Grand Commander, Brother James D. Richardson, on February 10, 1908, issued an order attaching the District to the jurisdiction of Charles E. Rosenbaum, 33°, the Sovereign Grand Inspector General for Arkansas. Bro. Rosenbaum, on December 28, 1909, issued an order appointing Brother Stirling Kerr, 33° Hon., his Representative and Deputy in the District of Columbia.

The meeting places of the local bodies of the Rite have been from time to time as follows: In 1860 and up to the breaking out of the Civil War, in the Masonic Hall, corner of Ninth and D Streets, N. W. After the war the members met at various residences, until the organization of Mithras Lodge of Perfection, December 30, 1870; in the Commandery Room of the Masonic Hall, holding this one meeting only here, after which



JOHN H. SMALL, JR.,  
GRAND MASTER, 1899



it held a few of its meetings at the residence of Bro. J. W. Nairn, 1109 H Street, N. W., then moving to the Chapter Chamber of the Masonic Hall, February 7, 1871. The bodies of the Rite moved again to the Commandery Room of the Masonic Hall, June 18, 1872, where they stayed until they fitted up a Scottish Rite Hall, at the southwest corner of Seventh and D Streets, N. W., into which they moved on March 2, 1875, and where they stayed until their removal to the Scottish Rite Cathedral, 1007 G Street, N. W., about September, 1886, continuing here until on February 14, 1910, they acquired from the Supreme Council, by exchange for their G Street property, the "House of the Temple," situated at the corner of Third and E Streets, N. W.

The Supreme Council, which is the governing body of the Scottish Rite, has, through its officers or otherwise, held residence in the District of Columbia since 1859, when Albert Pike became its Grand Commander. The Supreme Council, in its early days in Washington, had, however, no regular office rooms other than those of its officers residing here, until sometime after the close of the war. It might be interesting to know that Albert G. Mackey, the Secretary General of the Supreme Council and the distinguished Masonic scholar and writer, had his office in 1870 at 1418 F Street, N. W.; in 1871 at 220 I Street, N. W.; along about 1872 to 1876 at 1440 M Street, N. W. In 1873 Albert Pike was residing at 116 C Street, N. E. In 1877 the Supreme Council had a permanent office at 602 D Street, N. W., after which it moved to 218 Third Street, N. W., finally purchasing, in 1883, the property at the corner of Third and E Streets, N. W., and known as the "House of the Temple," but now known, since its acquirement by the local bodies, as "The Scottish Rite Cathedral." The Supreme Council is temporarily domiciled here until the completion of its new home, to be located in the Northwest section of the city, and which is to be a magnificent structure, the ground, construction, and furnishing to cost in the neighborhood of a million dollars. The Sovereign Grand Commander is James D. Richardson, 33°; the Secretary General, Austin B. Chamberlin.



The Scottish Rite in the District has steadily progressed in numbers and in the character and rendition of its work, the present membership being in the neighborhood of eight hundred and fifty. The presiding officers of the local bodies are: Ellwood P. Morey, 32°, K. C. C. H., Venerable Master of Mithras Lodge of Perfection; Francis A. Sebring, 33° Hon., Wise Master of Evangelist Chapter of Rose Croix; Ellwood P. Morey, Commander of Robert De Bruce Council of Kadosh; Jacobus Seneca Jones, 33° Hon., Venerable Master of Kadosh. Elmer E. Simpson, 32° K. C. C. H., is the efficient secretary of all the bodies.

The Cathedral of the Rite, at the corner of Third and E Streets, Northwest, never having been formally dedicated to Freemasonry, the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia performed this ceremony on the evening of May 12, 1910, the program connected therewith comprising an invocation by the Rev. Brother W. Tayloe Snyder; welcoming of the Grand Lodge by the Sovereign Grand Commander, Bro. James D. Richardson; dedication of the building by the Grand Lodge; address by Grand Master George C. Ober, and an address by Sovereign Grand Inspector General Charles E. Rosenbaum, and benediction by Rev. Bro. Snyder, the exercises being interspersed with appropriate music.

## CHAPTER XXII.

THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR IN THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

While the Order of the Eastern Star as it exists today in this country is of comparatively recent origin, there is sufficient evidence that the basic idea upon which it is builded—that of giving to the female members of Master Masons' families a means of recognition as such—is as old at least as the recorded history of the Masonic Fraternity.

The ancients provided for the participation of women in all the benefits of the institution but those peculiarly pertaining to membership, and they bound every member of it to award, on proper demand, to all worthy Masons' mothers, sisters, daughters, wives, widows, and children, peculiar immunities and benefits. But they failed to provide them with any means of recognition.

The so-called adoptive rites, admitting women to membership, which have flourished for over 400 years in certain European countries, and that one which under the title of the "Order of the Eastern Star," has met with phenomenal success in comparatively recent years in this and other countries, claim to, and in a large measure do, supply this omission. They give the necessary passport to the close blood dependents of the ancient Craft that may bring to them that protection and succor that is their inalienable right.

This of itself constitutes the great and unassailable reason for the existence of the Order, while, to give it attractiveness and permanency, the ritual is enriched and beautified by moral and religious instruction, such as Masonry itself everywhere

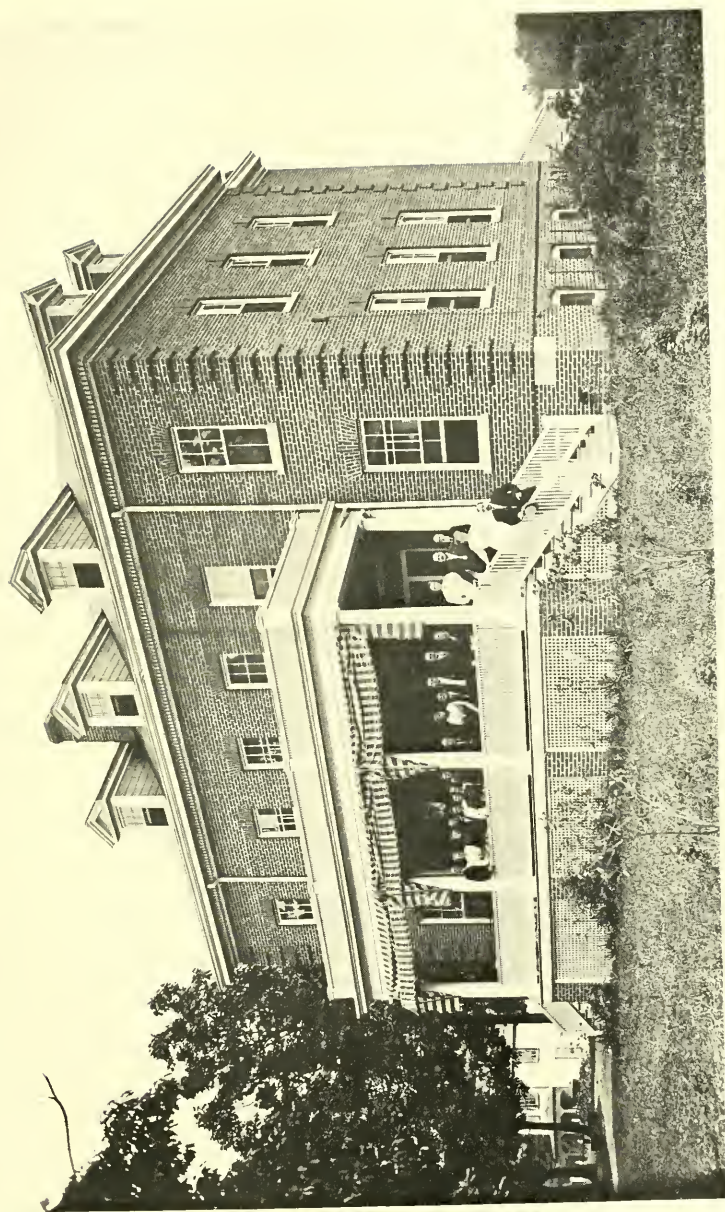
seeks to inculcate, and, in addition, the social side of life is made an effective instrument for the enlargement and perpetuation of the institution.

Freemasonry does not exercise the least control over the Eastern Star or kindred Orders, and therefore the term "adoptive" is only applicable in the limited sense that the Fraternity at large is gradually recognizing the value of such organizations and more and more extending encouragement to them.

Particularly is this true on this Continent, where it is a notable fact that in every instance the establishment and growth of an Eastern Star community has been followed locally by an unwonted interest and zeal in the Masonic Fraternity, and this has largely operated to quiet the prejudices aroused in the earlier years of its appearance. Along this line it may be noted that as early as 1849 we find the Grand Lodges here and there becoming uneasy about this alleged innovation of degrees for women, and drastic resolutions against their encouragement were passed by some of these bodies, and this attitude was maintained in isolated localities well up toward the latter part of the century; but this sentiment was by no means the prevailing one and is now rapidly disappearing.

The Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, always conservative yet always liberal, has not withheld its encouragement from the Order, and the relations between the two organizations, drawn together through the joint management of the Masonic and Eastern Star Home, has ever been increasingly amicable and mutually profitable. But long before the formation of the first chapter in this section the best sentiment of the Fraternity is indicated in the following extract from the address of Grand Master R. B. Donaldson, one of the bright particular Masonic stars in the history of this jurisdiction, delivered May 26, 1870, before the Grand Lodge:

" \* \* \* It is also an important question, I will here remark, whether Lodges of Adoption, which enlist the gentler sex beneath the protecting banners of our Order, are not beneficial to Craftsmen. True, the fair neophytes may not be con-



**COMPLETED WING OF MASONIC AND EASTERN STAR HOME.**  
On Sligo Mill Road and proposed extension of New Hampshire Avenue, D. C.





tent with the partial withdrawal of the veils which conceal our secrets; but I do not share the apprehension of a distinguished Craftsman, expressed at Boston, that within the next hundred years we shall see women wearing the mystic apron, handling the emblematic trowel, and debating whether men should any longer be initiated into the secrets of the Order."

About the middle of the nineteenth century a Rite of Adoption was recognized and regulated by the Grand Orient of France, and it is probable that this Rite was introduced into the Colonies by the French officers who aided the American Government during the Revolutionary War, but there is no evidence that the ritual of the Rite corresponded in any degree with the one in use by the Order of the Eastern Star today. Indeed a translation of the former by the late Albert Pike, in 1874, destroys any attempt to establish a close relationship. That the present Order, however, is the outgrowth or legitimate descendent of the rite above referred to is a reasonable and acceptable conclusion from the data at hand, but the ritual by which it finds expression is conceded to be, in its substantial entirety, the work of Robert Morris, a distinguished Masonic brother, who during his lifetime claimed to have compiled it about 1849, and to have spent a number of years subsequently in communicating it.

In 1868 Brother Morris resolved to devote the balance of his life to Masonic explorations in the Holy Land, and Robert Macoy, of New York, claimed that he turned over to him the prerogative he had assumed in the Order of the Eastern Star; but previous to this Macoy had arranged a manual of the Order, which was published by the Masonic Publishing Company and was not copyrighted. In this he styled himself "National Grand Secretary," and attempted to keep up the semblance of a supreme Grand body. In 1876 he assumed the title of "Supreme Grand Patron," and issued 641 charters to thirty-five different States, the District of Columbia receiving one, which was organized in Hiram Lodge room, Nineteenth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W., and known as Electa Lodge, having among its members some of the most



prominent Masons of the jurisdiction, Mr. J. H. Jochum, Jr., then Deputy Grand Master and later Grand High Priest, and others, taking an active interest in the new departure. This lodge appears to have existed for a period of six or eight years.

It becoming evident about this time that the Supreme Grand body was purely imaginary with Bro. Macoy, who exercised all the functions of such a body, and incidentally enjoyed all the emoluments thereof, active steps were taken in 1874 to form a legitimate General Grand body, and this was consummated in 1876, in the Masonic Temple at Indianapolis, Ind.

At the time of this organization the Order consisted of thirteen Grand Chapters, with 275 subordinate chapters, and a membership of 13,000, in striking contrast with the present showing of forty-nine Grand Chapters, 6,549 subordinate chapters, and a membership of 521,141.

The first chapter under the present regime in the District was chartered by the General Grand Chapter July 17, 1892, and Brother Lantz, Worthy Patron of Alpha Chapter, Baltimore, Md., was deputized by the Most Worthy Grand Patron of the General Grand Chapter to organize Ruth Chapter, No. 1, in Stansbury Lodge Room, Brightwood, D. C., with fifty-two charter members. This was followed, July 12, 1894, by the formation of Electa Chapter, No. 2, meeting in Anacostia Lodge Room; January 25, 1895, Naomi, No. 3, in Scottish Rite Cathedral; May 12, 1895, Martha, No. 4, Naval Lodge Hall; January 6, 1896, Esther, No. 5, Scottish Rite Cathedral; Jan. 11, 1896, Adah, No. 6, Hiram Lodge Room. Chapters 1, 2, 4, and 6 were granted permission, through special resolutions of the Grand Lodge, to meet in the lodge rooms designated above, and these resolutions logically brought about the adoption of an omnibus order, allowing any subordinate lodge to grant this permission in future.

In 1896 the membership in the District numbered 855, in six chapters, subordinate to the General Grand Chapter, and paying into its treasury per annum twenty-five cents per capita. On March 30, 1896, these six chapters, by a concur-

rent resolution, petitioned the General Grand Chapter to form a Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia. In accordance with the call of the Most Worthy Grand Patron, the representatives and delegates of the several chapters in the jurisdiction met in Scottish Rite Cathedral, April 30, 1896, and organized the local Grand Chapter.

The growth of the Order in the District has been remarkable in the last decade, fourteen chapters in all having been chartered since 1892, twelve of which are still flourishing and known, besides the above, as Bethlehem, No. 7; Mizpah, No. 8; Areme, No. 10; Brookland, No. 11; Takoma, No. 12; Temple, No. 13, and Cathedral, No. 14, with an aggregate membership of 3,113 at the last report, October 31, 1910. Adah, No. 6, chartered in 1896, became extinct in a few years, was later revived with the No. 9, but passed away again after a brief period.

In 1899 the Grand Chapter appointed a committee to investigate the advisability and practicability of establishing a Home for aged and dependent Masons, their widows and orphans, and for indigent members of the Order of the Eastern Star. Upon a favorable report, active work was at once begun and rapidly carried to successful conclusion, the Masonic Fraternity, after a few years, coöperating with the Order in the maintainance of the enterprise. The detailed history of this notable achievement, which stands as a lasting monument to the perseverance and effectiveness of the organization, appears in the chapter on Benevolences, and answers in full all arguments against the existence of this valuable auxiliary to Masonry.

The positions of Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron in the District have been filled as follows: Mrs. Alcena Lamond, L. Cabell Williamson, 1896; Mrs. M. Ella Espey, Cornelius W. Okey (deceased), 1897; Mrs. Carolyn A. Handy, W. E. Nalley, 1898; Mrs. Willie R. Messenger (deceased), Milard T. Dixon, 1899; Mrs. Carrie B. Allen, John F. O'Neill, 1900; Mrs. Almeria S. Williamson, Fred J. Randolph, 1901; Mrs. Eliza P. Walson, Charles J. O'Neill, 1902; Mrs. Carrie

Bornheim, Bennett A. Allen, 1903; Mrs. Nellie M. Lander-gren, Adolphus Gude, 1904; Mrs. Katie M. L. Gude, George W. Mobray, 1905; Mrs. Jeannette R. Newton, William F. Hunt, 1906; Miss Clara E. Ball, J. J. Faber, 1907; Mrs. Julia N. Streater, William F. Gude, 1908; Mrs. Mary T. O'Brien, Tom J. Landergren, 1909; Mrs. Hattie R. Hutchinson, Angus Lamond, 1910, while the present incumbent of the office of Grand Secretary, Mrs. Rose A. Yost, has ably filled that position continuously since 1900.



WILLIAM G. HENDERSON,  
GRAND MASTER, 1900.



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# APPENDIX.

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# APPENDIX.

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## BIOGRAPHIES.

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THE LIFE STORY OF EACH GRAND MASTER OF THE DISTRICT  
OF COLUMBIA JURISDICTION AND OTHER  
BRETHREN OF NOTE.

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In the preparation of the following biographical sketches the author has aimed to bring the subjects into view as men, as citizens, and as Masons. The lapse of time, the fragmentary character of the earlier records, the remarkable dearth of local news in the public prints of the first half of the last century, and the lack of information and sometimes indifference of descendants have prevented the fullest realization of this hope, and yet sufficient data has been gathered to constitute an interesting and valuable addition to our local history, which is here presented.

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### JOHN VALENTINE REINTZEL,

GRAND MASTER, 1811.

An old Luther Bible, published at Basel, Germany, in 1839, originally the family Bible of the Reintzels, and now in the custody of the librarian of Georgetown College, contains several leaves of family notes, written in German, and from these we quote the following extract: "John Valentine Reintzel was born and came upon this earth—came into this world—in the year Anno 1761, on the 26th day of February, in the sign of the Archer (Sagittarius), and received holy baptism."

He was the son of John Valentine Reintzel, Sr., who came to this country from Hamburg, Germany, in the latter part of the eighteenth century and settled at or near Georgetown. Both father and son seem to have abbreviated the baptismal name, and were known as Valentine Reintzel, Sr. and Jr., respectively.

While only the most meager data concerning the subject of this sketch is available, sufficient evidence is at hand to show that he was an influential citizen and identified with all the progressive movements of his day in the locality of his adoption, the first recorded meeting of the Corporation of Georgetown, held November 28, 1791, at the house of Joseph Semmes, showing him present as a Common Councilman.

That he was a prosperous business man is attested by the land records, which show his large holdings of real estate, and that he was public-spirited and philanthropical seems to be established by the alleged donation by him of the site on which the old Bridge (M) Street Presbyterian Church of Georgetown stood for many years and his recorded liberality in all of his lodge's subscription charities.

His Masonic activity commences with the earliest pages of recorded local history, and with the story of the struggles of the Fraternity in the pioneer days his name will always be inseparably linked as that of a forceful leader.

We find him Master of Lodge No. 9, of Georgetown, in 1793, and in that capacity participating with the illustrious Washington in the ceremony of laying the cornerstone of the Capitol building, and being on that occasion signally honored by having placed in his charge by the first President the gavel used in the exercises—a gavel ever since cherished by Potomac Lodge and the jurisdiction as a most precious heritage.

Throughout all the trying experiences of the Fraternity during the last decade of the eighteenth and the first of the nineteenth centuries he appears to have been a leading spirit, and as one of the original members helped to place Potomac Lodge, No. 43, chartered November 11, 1806, on a firm footing, acting as Worshipful Master thereof for the years 1807, 1808, 1809, and 1810, and continuing his activity by substituting in the minor offices as late as 1815, when we find him acting as Junior Warden. From its formation until 1810, the Lodge met in the third story of his residence.

Brother Reintzel was prominent in the movement to form the Grand Lodge of the District and was honored by being elected the first Grand Master, his election by the convention called for the purpose of creating a Grand Lodge taking place January 8, 1811, and the installation following at the first meeting of the Grand Lodge, as such, February 19, 1811.

He died in the latter part of 1817, and the Grand Lodge, being notified thereof at the stated communication of December 27 of that year,

*Resolved, unanimously,* that the Past Grand Officers of this Grand Lodge be and they are hereby required to wear crepe on the left arm for the space of one month as a token of the brotherly love and respect entertained by the said Grand Lodge for their deceased Brother and late R. W. Grand Master.

One of the many disappointments which have come to the author of this work is his failure, after the most diligent and far-reaching search, to bring to light a drawing or painting of this good man and Mason for reproduction in these pages.

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## ALEXANDER McCORMICK,

[GRAND MASTER, 1812-13.

This Brother was the immigrant son of a Church of England minister in Ulster, who came to Georgetown in the latter part of the eighteenth century and eventually moved to Capitol Hill, where he spent the balance of his life. From 1807 till his death he filled the position of Rector of Christ Episcopal Church in that section, passing away February 18, 1821, and being interred with distinguished Masonic honors in Congressional Cemetery.

Bro. McCormick, while a clergyman, also was a citizen of prominence, identified with all the progressive movements of his day, and served for some years as alderman and a member of the City Council.

As a member of the Masonic Fraternity, however, his history is best known. He was initiated in Federal Lodge, No. 15 (now No. 1), February 1, 1796, passed February 13, 1796, and raised March 7, 1796. At once he began to make his mark in Fraternity circles, and as early as 1798 represented his lodge in the Grand Lodge of Maryland; was Master of his lodge in 1806, 1808-9, 1812-14, and 1816; Secretary in 1810. He was a delegate from Federal in the convention to form a Grand Lodge in the District and served as chairman of that gathering. After serving as S. G. Warden in 1811, he became the second Grand Master and filled that office with conspicuous ability through the formative years of the infant Grand Lodge.

There is at this time in the possession of Federal Lodge a code of by-laws drawn up by Bro. McCormick in 1798, when he became Master, having for its object "a restoration of dignity and discipline; or return to true Masonic character and conduct; a lessening of conviviality, and the provision of a sure revenue to enable the lodge to live, work, and pay its way."

Bro. McCormick was undoubtedly a member of the so-called Royal Arch Encampment appendant to Federal Lodge, No. 15, in 1795-99, for in the re-organization of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia in 1807 we find him elected as Grand Treasurer of that body. During the latter years of his life he took great interest in the advancement of Capitular Masonry.

One of the most interesting relics in the possession of the Grand Lodge is a fragment of spermaceti candle presented to it by the widow of a son of Bro. McCormick's in 1867, and represented as being the remains of the candle carried by him at the funeral of General Washington, and with which he was said to have entered the tomb. Corroborative evidence leaves no room for doubt as to the genuineness of the souvenir which is carefully preserved.

## AMOS ALEXANDER,

GRAND MASTER, 1814 AND 1817.

This Brother was born in Cecil County, Md., in 1760, and settled in Alexandria, Va., sometime prior to 1800. In 1803 he was appointed Inspector of Flour at Alexandria, and held that position until 1824, when he resigned. During the following year he passed away in the city of his adoption.

Bro. Alexander appears to have been a public spirited and useful citizen, and filled the then very important post above referred to with credit, as is evidenced by his long tenure of office. In this connection it must be recalled that at that time the port of Alexandria was one of first importance. According to his contemporaries he was a man of sterling integrity and universally respected.

In Masonic circles he was ever active and was one of the pioneers in the formation of this Grand Lodge, appearing as a delegate from Alexandria-Brooke Lodge, No. 47, at the original convention in this city December 11, 1810, and taking an active part in the subsequent formative steps.

He served as Master of Brooke Lodge, No. 2, in 1814, 1817, and 1818; as Deputy Grand Master, 1812, 1813, and 1816 (an instance of elevation to the Grand East without previous service as Master), and was Grand Master in 1814, and again in 1817.

Another unique feature of his Masonic career is furnished by the fact that four years subsequent to his service as Grand Master he filled the position of Junior Warden of Brooke Lodge for one term in 1821, and that of Senior Warden for the years 1822 to 1825.

Upon his retirement from office as Grand Master the Grand Lodge unanimously passed a resolution of thanks to him "as a testimony of their unfeigned respect for his person, and for the able and impartial manner in which he has discharged the duties of Right Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia."

He passed away sometime in 1826.

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JOHN DAVIDSON,

GRAND MASTER, 1815-16.

The subject of this sketch was a son of Gen. John Davidson, of Annapolis, Md., who was one of the original proprietors of the land within the lines of the original District of Columbia. He was born and resided in Richmond, Va., until early adult life, and for many years thereafter was a resident of the First Ward in this city and conducted what was known as Davidson's wharf, located near the mouth of Rock Creek. He was a prominent and active citizen and identified with all the pro-

gressive movements of the period and, in common with the leading citizens of that early day, was a member of the Union Fire Company, which organization held many of its meetings at his house.

The lapse of time, together with the meager records available, preclude the possibility of giving a pen picture of the personality and characteristics of the man, but that he filled a large place in the early history of Washington is beyond question, while as one of the pioneer Masons of this section, his service was of the greatest value, especially during the formative period of the Grand Lodge immediately after its institution, the few records preserved to us showing his intelligent initiative and participation at every step.

Originally a member of St. John's Lodge, No. 36, of Richmond, Va., he dimitted therefrom and united with Lebanon Lodge, No. 7, of this jurisdiction May 1, 1812; was Worshipful Master, 1813-1815, and treasurer, 1819-1825.

In the Grand Lodge he served as Deputy Grand Master in 1814, and Grand Master as above.

He passed away October, 1829.

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## DANIEL KURTZ,

GRAND MASTER, 1818-19.

One of the sturdy pioneers of Masonry in all its branches in the District of Columbia it is a matter for serious regret that the lapse of time has forever dropped the curtain and excluded from our view much concerning this Brother's general life which might picture him to us in his character as a citizen and as a man.

His Masonic history, however, has been preserved with some degree of completeness and, judging from the fact that for nearly half a century he stood high in the councils of the Fraternity and was a revered, respected, and beloved member of the Order, it requires only the most ordinary imagination to complete the picture and endow him with all the attributes which make for good citizenship and upright manhood.

Brother Kurtz was born at Georgetown, then in Frederick Co., Maryland, October 5, 1784. When a youth he entered the Columbia Bank in that [then] town, afterwards becoming cashier and holding the position until the bank closed, when he was appointed trustee to settle its affairs. He was subsequently appointed chief clerk in the Indian Bureau under the United States Government when, losing his position, by a change of administration, he devoted himself to farming until his death, which occurred August 10, 1846. The farm which he owned and on which he spent the last years of his life was an extensive tract on the west side of the present Rock Creek Park and including a part thereof.

While the date of Bro. Kurtz's entry into Masonry is unknown, he was



connected with Federal Lodge for sometime prior to 1806, his name being inserted in the register about January, 1806. Dimitting therefrom during the same year he became a charter member of Potomac Lodge, No. 43 (now No. 5).

As a delegate from this lodge he took a prominent part in the formation of the Grand Lodge of the District. He filled the position of Master of Potomac Lodge for the years 1811, 1813, 1815, 1823, and 1826; was S. Grand Warden in 1814, Deputy Grand Master, 1815, 1817, and Grand Master, 1818 and 1819.

In local Capitular Masonry his is one of the earliest figures of which we have record, his name appearing on a list of members of the R. A. Chapter, which was a revival of the Royal Arch Encampment attached to Federal Lodge, in the year 1808. He became a charter member of Potomac R. A. Chapter, No. 8, upon its formation in 1818, served as Secretary for the years 1818 and 1819, as High Priest in 1820, and as Treasurer in 1844. He also had the distinction of being the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia during the years 1820-22.

Bro. Kurtz was also a charter member of Washington [Commandery] Encampment, No. 1, K. T., and in the Scottish Rite had attained to the 17th degree.

He passed away August 10, 1846.

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## WILLIAM HEWITT,

GRAND MASTER, 1820-21, 1828-29.

Brother Hewitt was a man of prominence in the early days of the City of Washington, and filled several public offices of trust, among others that of Register of the City from 1810 to 1838.

He was for many years treasurer of the old Patriotic Fire Company, and resided on the site of the Stewart Building, corner Sixth and D Streets, N. W., in which Gen. Scott had his headquarters at the opening of the Civil War.

For a quarter of a century he was an active, interested, and valuable worker in Symbolic Masonry in the District and has the distinction of having been connected with three local lodges during that period.

He was initiated in Federal Lodge, No. 1, June 3, 1811, passed August 5, 1811, and raised September 2, 1811. November 4, of the same year, he withdrew to become a charter member of Lebanon Lodge, No. 7; served the latter lodge as Secretary in 1811 and 1812; J. W., 1813; S. W., 1814; Worshipful Master, 1816 and 1817, and withdrew therefrom February 15, 1822. He was a charter member and the first Master of The New Jerusalem Lodge, No. 9, and retained the East there for the years 1824 to 1826 inclusive.



*Harry Staudiford*

GRAND MASTER, 1901; GRAND HIGH PRIEST, 1902.



Bro. Hewitt was elected to the position of Senior Grand Warden for 1817, Deputy Grand Master for 1818-1819, and served as Grand Master for the four terms indicated above.

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## WILLIAM WINSTON SEATON,

GRAND MASTER, 1822-24.

Brother Seaton was born January 11, 1785, at Chelsea, Va., and was a lineal descendant through his father of one of the oldest and most historic families of Scotland, and through his mother of an equally illustrious English family, that of Winston, both of which settled in Virginia in the latter part of the seventeenth century, and were prominently identified with the early history of the Colonies.

His youth was passed at the ancestral home where a domestic tutor directed his education until he reached in Richmond what was then the culminating academic polishing of "Ogilvie, the Scotchman," a pedagogue of great reputation at that period. The great Patrick Henry was a near relative and frequent guest at the Virginia home, and very fond of young Seaton, directing his early sports and giving him the rich benefit of his companionship.

At the age of eighteen Bro. Seaton's mind was matured, his ambition aroused, his vocation decided, and he passed into the arena of public life, entering with manly earnestness upon the career of political journalism, of which he was one of the country's pioneers. His first essay in the field of politics was as assistant editor of the *Richmond Journal*. This was followed in the next few years by editorial work in Petersburg, Va., Raleigh, N. C., and Halifax, N. C. At Raleigh, to which place he returned after a short absence, he became associated with Mr. Joseph Gales in the publication of the *Register*, and in 1809 became united in marriage with Miss Sarah Gales, sister of the above-named. In 1812 the firm of Gales & Seaton acquired *The National Intelligencer and Washington Advertiser*, which had lately been founded, and Bro. Seaton entered upon what proved to be his life work, his journal proving at once a financial success and for many years a powerful factor in the national political world.

During the War of 1812 Bro. Seaton and his partner were both enrolled in the military service and were stationed for some time at Fort Warburton, the present site of Fort Washington, and was with his command when it met the British at Bladensburg, August 24, 1814, and took a conspicuous part in the sharp engagement that ensued. In Admiral Cockburn's passage through the city he caused the *Intelligencer* office to be sacked and all the property, books, and papers to be burned.

An intimate of Jefferson, Marshall, Aaron Burr, Patrick Henry, La Fayette, Daniel Webster, and practically all the prominent men of the country during his adult life, his prolonged career was interwoven with the social and political annals of Washington.

While his great intellect was directed toward the shaping of the national policies of his day he was yet an active and valued citizen of his adopted city, and served as Mayor from 1840 to 1850, having previously twice declined the honor.

He was an ardent worker in the cause of education and was untiring in his efforts to improve local school conditions.

In religion he was Unitarian and was one of the founders of that church in Washington. He was also one of the founders of the Washington Monument Association and its first vice-president.

While the great novelist, Charles Dickens, was in this country he was entertained by Bro. Seaton, and in the raciness and charm of manner, in the genial goodness stamped on every lineament of his countenance this keen reader must have seen the lovable man, and the immortal Cherryble Brothers might seem to have been inspired by the subject of this sketch and his partner, so nearly akin in every gentle characteristic.

His genial cordiality, his captivating courtesy, his large hospitality and readiness of beneficence had few equals, and won the individual affection of all with whom he came in contact. These qualities, united with his great personal charm, his full intelligence and the seal of distinction with which nature had stamped him, marked him out from his fellow-men, and it was but natural that on all civic public occasions, whether it was an address of welcome to an incoming President or to speed a parting one, to inaugurate benevolent institutions or to assume the more delicate and gracious task of presiding at social festivals, that he should be called upon, and thus upon the occasion of the sojourn of LaFayette to this country, the special charge of the nation's guest seemed by tacit consent to devolve upon Bro. Seaton, and how well he discharged this duty is testified by the life-long friendship then formed with our distinguished French ally.

Through an unfortunate combination of circumstances growing out of the war, the *Intelligencer* lost ground, and on December 31, 1864, Bro. Seaton retired from active connection therewith, after an unprecedented term of service of fifty-two years. His great generosity, however, had interfered with his accumulating a competence in that time, and in his own words he retired "with nothing."

For twenty years Bro. Seaton gave unsparingly of his time and talents for the upbuilding of symbolic Masonry in this jurisdiction, and, falling, as this activity did, within the most trying period in the history of the Fraternity, the value of his services cannot be too highly rated. While his original lodge is not a matter of available record his connection with the local Craft began with his affiliation with Lebanon Lodge, No. 7, January 20, 1815. He was elected Senior Warden the following year, and served as Master, 1818 to 1821, and again from 1825 to 1827. During the interim between these terms he served as Grand Master for 1822, 1823, and 1824. He withdrew from active participation in Masonic affairs in 1836.

It is worthy of note that his son, Malcolm Seaton, also served as Grand Master of this jurisdiction in 1902.

At the patriarchal age of 81, after several years of severe suffering, which he bore with patience and fortitude, he passed away June 16, 1866.

"And thus," in the language of one of his biographers, "undimmed by a single unworthy act, in every word and thought of his spotless life a true gentleman, duty his watchword, exalted honor his instinct, Christianity his guide, William Winston Seaton bore his historic name untarnished to the grave; nobly illustrating the legend of his family arms: *'In via virtuti via nulla.'*"

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## DANIEL BURCH.

GRAND MASTER, 1825.

This Brother was one of the pioneer Masons in the history of the Grand Lodge, and, while he served the Fraternity with fidelity and distinction for nearly a quarter of century, dropped away in the latter years of his life from active participation in the affairs of the Order, and we must assume, in the light of the reputation he won during his years of service as a man of intellect, of worth, and of executive ability, that his passing into an obscurity which the intervening years have rendered impenetrable was due to failing health or other circumstances beyond his control.

For a number of years he was Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives and later the Chief Clerk in the office of the Clerk of the House, and while so serving built and occupied the large house at the corner of New Jersey Avenue and I Street, N. W. During the year 1817, and for several years thereafter he was President of the Board of Common Councilmen. That he was also a citizen militant is shown by the fact that he commanded the artillery at the battle of Bladensburg.

His entire Masonic life was spent as a member of Federal Lodge, No. 1. He was initiated July 1, 1811; passed February 3, 1812, and raised December 7, 1812; served as Secretary for the year 1813; Junior Warden, 1815; Senior Warden, 1816-17, and Worshipful Master, 1818-20.

In the Grand Lodge line he served as Grand Secretary from 1815 to 1821, inclusive, as Deputy Grand Master, 1822 to 1824, and as Grand Master in 1825.

W. Bro. Burch was among the early leaders of thought along progressive lines, and during his incumbency of the Grand East aroused interest in a movement to erect a suitable Masonic edifice in this city, and to further the project of a suitable monument to Gen. Washington. In addition to these general movements he advocated and was instrumental in inaugurating one of the earliest movements looking to a revision of the ritual. Apparently a convincing speaker his recommendations appear to have always won respectful recognition and usually resulted in action.



## JOHN NICHOLSON MOULDER,

GRAND MASTER, 1826-27, 1830, 1832, 1838.

Brother Moulder was born in Philadelphia, Pa., in May, 1792, and was a grandson of John Nicholson, an associate and friend of Robert Morris, of Revolutionary fame. He was a man of unusual intellectual attainments, a public-spirited citizen, a valued officer in the Federal and local municipal government, and as a Mason gave to this jurisdiction without stint for many years the best of his talents.

In his early manhood he conducted a school in Philadelphia, but spent the greater part of his life in Washington as a resident of the old First Ward, having his home on I between Twenty-first and Twenty-second Streets, N. W., but later moved to the Third Ward and lived on the east side of Ninth between I Street and New York Avenue.

In the government service he held for many years a responsible position in the office of the Second Comptroller, and was Comptroller of the Currency under President Andrew Jackson, who was a personal friend. In his capacity as a citizen of Washington he served as Alderman in the First Ward from 1817 to 1819, and again in 1825 and 1826, was also at one time a member of the Board of Common Council, was for a number of years a Justice of the Peace, and was President of the Union Fire Company in its early days.

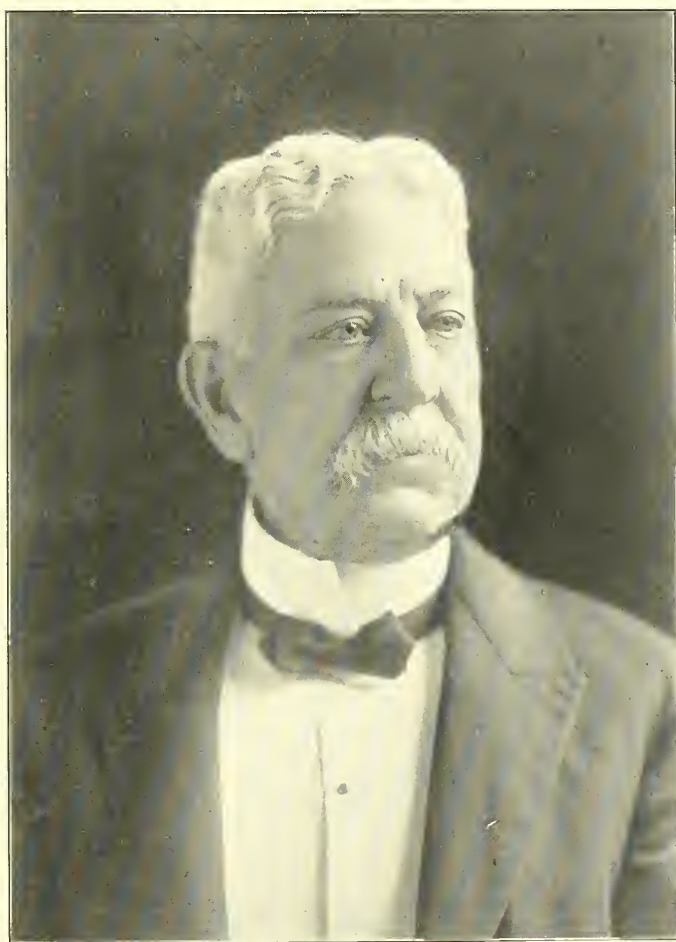
Originally a member of Columbia Lodge, No. 3, of this jurisdiction, he filled the station of Master there from 1821 to 1827, inclusive, and in December, 1825, was elected to the Grand East without previous service in any of the subordinate offices of that body. During his second term, in 1827, he granted a dispensation for the formation of Hiram Lodge, and in 1828 withdrew from Columbia, entered the former lodge and was immediately called to the East in that body. Subsequently, as stated above, he served for four more years as Grand Master.

During the first year of his incumbency (1826) of that office he laid the cornerstone of the first Masonic Temple ever erected in Washington in which the Grand Lodge was actively interested, the building on the southwest corner of Indiana Avenue and John Marshall Place, which is still standing, and the history of which is given in detail in other pages of this work.

On this notable occasion he delivered an address which is a model in its class and may be found in the Grand Lodge Proceedings for the year 1826.

He was a member of Washington R. A. Chapter, No. 1, and served that body for two terms as High Priest.

From a letter of condolence, written by a committee of Washington Chapter, to the widow of Brother Moulder, and dated January 18, 1839, we quote the following extract: "For upwards of twenty years our friend and Companion John N. Moulder, Esq., was connected with the Order of Free Masonry in this city, and for a considerable portion of that time was a distinguished officer and member of this Chapter (having



Malcolm Sinton

GRAND MASTER, 1902.



twice been elected to the office of Most Excellent High Priest). We, Madam, knew him well, and improve this opportunity to bear cheerful testimony to his kind and courteous manner, the dignity with which he presided over the Craft, the avidity with which he voted favorably on every case of distress, and the haste which sped his willing feet, by day or night, to relieve the wants of the suffering. These were characteristics in John N. Moulder which never can be erased from the memory of his Companions."

That his private life was above reproach is shown by a communication from Brig.-Gen. John M. Wilson, U. S. A., retired, a grandson, who, while never having seen his grandfather, recalls the conversations of his mother in which she described the "superb character and lovely home-life" of her father, a beautiful and sufficient tribute to his memory.

He died in this city January 7, 1839, and his remains were interred in Congressional, but later moved to Oak Hill Cemetery.

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## ROGER C. WEIGHTMAN,

GRAND MASTER, 1833.

Born in Alexandria, Va., in 1787, he removed to Washington in 1801, where he learned the printing business with Andrew Way, who subsequently carried on business with the late Jacob Gideon under the firm name of Way & Gideon. He served for a time as foreman to the Government Printer and later, for several Congressional terms, held the latter position, with his office on the south side of E Street near Seventh, N. W. He also at one time conducted a book store on the northwest corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Sixth Street, N. W.

During the War of 1812 he was an officer in a cavalry company, and at the close accepted a commission in the militia of the District, and at the time of LaFayette's visit to this country was a Brigadier-General and assisted in the entertainment of the nation's guest. His home, 324 Virginia Avenue, S. E., still standing and now dedicated to and used for settlement work, played an important part in the social functions of that event, the ball-room on the side being specially erected for the better handling of the numerous guests.

He was later promoted to be a Major-General and Commander-in-Chief of the District Militia, and was occupying that position at the outbreak of the War of the Rebellion, although his impaired health would not permit of his participating in active outdoor service.

Bro. Weightman for a number of years held office in the City Council and was elected Mayor of Washington in 1824, and served to August, 1827, and with such fidelity did he perform his duties that his administration was referred to for years as a model one. He resigned the mayoralty to accept the position of Cashier of the Bank of Washington, then located in the National Hotel building, and held that position until 1834, when

he resigned on account of ill-health and was subsequently appointed a clerk in the Patent Office and for years was librarian there.

He had an unsullied reputation and possessed many ennobling traits of character, was a successful business man and a dignified, courtly gentleman.

In the Masonic Fraternity Bro. Weightman long held a leading position and possesses the unique distinction of having been called from the position of Senior Warden of his lodge to the chair of Grand Master, making one of three similar instances in the history of this jurisdiction.

He was made a Master Mason in Lebanon Lodge, No. 7, November 24, 1811, being the first candidate who received the degrees in that body and for nearly sixty-five years held continuous membership therein.

Bro. Weightman passed away February 2, 1876, at the advanced age of 89, and was interred in Congressional Cemetery under the auspices of the Grand Lodge and with an escort of all the Commanderies, K. T., of the District and several companies of the militia.

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## CLEMENT T. COOTE.

GRAND MASTER, 1834.

Brother Coote is an interesting figure in the history of Free Masonry in Washington during the period of persecution from 1830 to 1840, and his years of service to the Fraternity, both in his lodge and in the Grand body, were troublous, indeed, but were met by him, in the language of a biographer, "with a patient and rather formal dignity."

Happily, however, he lived to see Masonry again in the full tide of prosperity, and until the period of the Civil War was felt the influence of the stalwart service he had given to the Craft in the hour of trial.

He passed away in the City of Baltimore, May 12, 1849, and his remains were interred May 15 at Congressional Cemetery, this city, the Grand Lodge conducting the ceremony with M. W. G. Master B. B. French in the East.

At the communication of the Grand Lodge, called to attend his funeral, Past Grand Master Keyworth presented a package of Masonic books and papers, late the property of Bro. Coote, which had been entrusted to him to turn over to the Grand Lodge to be placed among the archives. The bequest was accepted and the disposition requested made.

Bro. Coote was engaged in the dry-goods business on the north side of Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W., between Ninth and Tenth Streets, was interested in a brewery on New Jersey Avenue near the Eastern Branch, was a lawyer by profession, and long held the position of Justice of the Peace with an office at the corner of Sixth and C Streets, N. W. Of forceful, aggressive character he took great interest in the rather strenuous local politics of the day, as is evidenced by a so-called "broadside" aimed at him, which was published and circulated, and a copy of which

may be seen in the Library of Congress. Withal he was a citizen of prominence and note. He served as a Councilman in 1826, and as Alderman from 1827 to 1834, most of the time as President of the Board.

In Masonic circles his activity and interest dated from his admission to the Order, in which he soon became a zealous and prominent member. He was initiated in Federal Lodge, No. 1, January 2, 1826; passed October 2, 1826, and raised October 14, 1826; was Secretary in 1827; S. W., 1828-29, and Master from 1830 to 1833, with a hiatus from November 1, 1836, to November 17, 1837, during which period the charter of his lodge was in the hands of the Grand Lodge. He served as Junior Grand Warden in 1830, Senior Grand Warden in 1831, Deputy Grand Master, 1832-3, and Grand Master in 1834, and as indicating something of the unusual difficulties of his position it may be noted that in October, 1834, Federal Lodge ordered the surrender of its charter, but Bro. Coote and a few others, who had resisted this movement for some time, were able to postpone compliance with the mandate of the lodge and the actual surrender did not take place until November, 1836, a forcible reason for the delay being found in the fact that it may be presumed that W. Bro. Coote, as Grand Master, did not desire to be left without the semblance of a lodge behind him.

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## WILLIAM WRIGHT BILLING,

GRAND MASTER, 1835-37.

Colonel Billing, as he was universally known, was born in the District of Columbia in August, 1801, and received an excellent education in the local private schools. His parents were English and came to this country just a short while before his birth.

He was an unusually resourceful man, and while engaged in a good private business was a Common Councilman in 1833, and at one time Collector of Taxes of the District. He afterwards accepted a clerkship in the Paymaster-General's office, War Department, which position he held at the time of his death. He resided most of his life at the corner of Fourteenth and L Streets, N. W., in a home destroyed by fire in the early forties.

He was one of the original members of the congregation of the Tabernacle Church, Twelfth near H Street, N. W., now the Rhode Island Avenue Methodist Protestant Church.

He is described as a man of most kindly disposition, was hospitable and generous, and at the same time thrifty and acquired considerable property. He was public-spirited and very popular with all with whom he came in contact. In the language of his daughter, Miss Margaret M. Billing, he was a "Christian gentleman." For years he was Colonel of the District Militia, which represented the only military organization in the District at that time.

He passed away in this city in 1843, and was interred in Congressional Cemetery.



Bro. Billing came into office when the anti-Masonic movement was at its height, and throughout the three years of his incumbency was called upon to meet more unusual and trying conditions than perhaps have ever fallen to the lot of a Grand Master in this jurisdiction.

He was a fair example, however, of the truism that the times make the man, and, rising superior to the most disheartening obstacles, maintained the integrity of the Grand Lodge, and by the force of his executive ability brought some degree of order out of the chaos into which the Fraternity had fallen.

At the very beginning of his term of office the trouble the Fraternity had been for some years having to retain their hold upon the building at the corner of John Marshall Place and Indiana Avenue culminated, and only through the efforts of Grand Master Billing were the various lodges interested enabled to maintain a quasi ownership therein for a few more years. By the arrangement then entered into the leasehold remained in Bro. Billing's name for a number of years, as is fully set out in the chapter on Meeting Places, and is only mentioned in this connection as an evidence of the high place the then Grand Master held in the estimation of his brethren.

Bro. Billing was initiated in New Jerusalem Lodge, No. 9, October 16, 1826; passed November 20, 1826; raised November 23, 1826; was Secretary, 1827-28; Junior Warden, 1829; Senior Warden, 1830-31; Master, 1832-35, 37-38, and Treasurer, 1839-43.

He served as Grand Secretary for the year 1833, and Grand Master for the three terms indicated above.

Altho during this period Masonry was under a cloud, public demonstrations, after the custom of the time, were, indeed, more frequent than at the present, and perhaps the most notable of these at which Bro. Billing officiated as Grand Master was the laying of the cornerstone of Jackson City, across the river, January 11, 1836, which event was made the occasion of considerable pomp and ceremony, and was participated in by M. W. Andrew Jackson, P. G. M., of the State of Tennessee and President of the United States, who actively assisted Grand Master Billing in the work.

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## MARMADUKE DOVE,

GRAND MASTER, 1839.

This Brother, having previously occupied the East in Union Lodge, No. 6, and later affiliated with Naval Lodge, No. 4, was installed Worshipful Master of the latter Lodge in 1819, the first chosen for the full present term of twelve months. "Captain" Dove, as he was universally known, was an officer in the Navy, and for many years held a responsible position in the Navy Yard in Washington. He is described as having been a man of unusually commanding presence and genial, magnetic personality.

Bro. Dove's zeal, fidelity, and attachment to Masonry is evidenced by



*Geo. H. Wacker*

GRAND MASTER, 1903; GRAND HIGH PRIEST, 1894.



the fact that besides serving Naval Lodge as its principal officer during the years 1819, 1820, 1821, 1824, 1825, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1834, 1836, 1837, and 1841, he also held the positions of Junior Grand Warden in 1831; Senior Grand Warden, 1820, 1832, and 1834; Deputy Grand Master, 1821, 1836, 1838, and 1843, and Grand Master in 1839.

His death occurred July 3, 1846, at the advanced age of seventy years. His remains lie in Congressional Cemetery.

In addition to his naval service Bro. Dove took an active interest in municipal affairs, serving for some time as a Common Councilman and on the old Board of Alderman, and in testimony of the esteem in which he was held by his associates his funeral was attended by the Board of Aldermen and Board of Common Council, by order of the Mayor.

At the communication of December 27, 1838, after his installation as Grand Master, M. W. Bro. Dove at once installed his venerable associate, Bro. Isaac Kell, as Grand Senior Warden, and the following extract from the Proceedings of that year is given as of interest in view of the fact that the years of persecution were then drawing to a close:

This part of the ceremony [installation of Bro. Kell] was peculiarly impressive. Here were two of the venerable chiefs of the Order, whose locks were whitened with the snows of many winters, who had espoused the cause of Freemasonry upwards of twenty years since; had rejoiced in the days of its prosperity; had fought side by side in the days of its adversity; who had borne the reproach, and whose attachments were increased by the fires of persecution. Now they had met as the two principal officers of the institution, to aid their junior brethren in accelerating the great work of science and benevolence, which form the ground work of the Order.

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## ROBERT KEYWORTH,

GRAND MASTER, 1840-41 AND 1843.

Bro. Keyworth was born in 1795, and died February 18, 1856, and from the age of twenty-five until his passing away was an interested, active, and valued member of the local Fraternity, and while failing health in his later years prevented his participation in the affairs of his subordinate lodge he was rarely absent from a meeting of the Grand Lodge.

His unfaltering fidelity to the Craft and zealous discharge of his duties during the period when Masonry was perhaps at its lowest ebb undoubtedly contributed in no small degree to the rehabilitation of the Order in the District.

Throughout his long and busy career he was a leader among his associates in every walk of life and was universally revered and respected.

He was a watchmaker and jeweler, doing business on Pennsylvania Avenue, west of Ninth Street, was a citizen of prominence, and participated in all the progressive movements of the day.

He was also for many years interested in the local military and held a commission as Major in the 1st Regt., D. C. Vols., which organization, at his death, passed appropriate resolutions and desired to parade at the funeral but refrained in deference to the wishes of his family.

The interment, which was attended by an unusual concourse, was at Congressional Cemetery and under the direction of the Grand Lodge.

Bro. Keyworth was initiated in Lebanon Lodge, March 3, 1820; passed March 17, 1820; raised October 6, 1820; was Junior Warden in 1837; Senior Warden, 1835 and 1838, and Master, 1831, '32, '39, '40, '44-'47. He was made an honorary member of his lodge April 7, 1848.

In the Grand Lodge he served as Grand Treasurer during the years 1838 and 1839, and Grand Master, as shown above.

As a Capitular Mason he was also active and was a charter member of Columbia R. A. Chapter, No. 15 (now No. 1), attended its first meeting, January 15, 1840, and served that body as its first High Priest.

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## WILLIAM M. ELLIS,

GRAND MASTER, 1844.

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Born in Philadelphia, Pa., August 28, 1806, he received an academic education, and afterward became principal of the academy at Rockville, Md. Later he entered the Washington Navy Yard as a founder and subsequently became master machinist at that place. During his service at the Yard several first-class engines for our vessels were built under his supervision. In after years he established a private business under the firm name of Ellis & Bro., machinists, and prospered. As a citizen he was active in public affairs, was President of the Anacostia Fire Co., and was for some years a member of the Board of Water Commissioners and of the City Council.

He was one of the founders of the First Presbyterian Church and one of its deacons for forty years. He is described as a model citizen, fond husband, and profound Christian. Quiet and unassuming, beloved, and respected, he was deservedly popular among his associates.

At the time of his death, which occurred March 16, 1868, he was one of the oldest members of the Fraternity in the District and one of the most venerated. In the language of a resolution passed by the Grand Lodge on the occasion of his funeral, under the auspices of that body, "he revered God, he loved his country, he loved his fellow men."

He was initiated in Naval Lodge, No. 4, November 23, 1827; passed December 1, 1827, and raised December 19, 1827, and after serving in several of the subordinate chairs became Master of his lodge in 1835, and afterward in 1848.

He became Senior Grand Warden in 1837; Deputy Grand Master in 1839, and Grand Master in 1844.

## JOHN MASON, JR.,

GRAND MASTER, 1842.

This Brother was one of three elevated to that station directly from the body of the Craft during the last century, and was the only one who had never previously held any Masonic office. Indeed, as his fraternal record shows, his active membership in his lodge was remarkably brief and his selection to preside over the Grand Lodge can only be attributed to some special conditions, hidden by the lapse of years, but among which it may be surmised his prominence and the unsettled period were powerful factors.

Bro. Mason was born in Annapolis, Md., February 18, 1797, and came from one of the best known and most patriotic of the old families. His grandfather, Col. George Mason, was an officer in the Revolutionary War, drafted the celebrated "Virginia Declaration of Rights," 1776, and was a member of the Continental Congress in 1777. He built the famous old mansion Gunston Hall, on the Potomac and died there in 1792.

The father of the subject of this sketch, Gen. John Mason, inherited and lived during the summer months on Analostan Island, also known as Mason's Island, in a pretentious colonial residence which was for years one of the social centers of this section. Among other noted guests entertained here was Louis Phillipe, of France, on his visit to this country. The house was destroyed during the Civil War.

An uncle, Stevens L. Mason, was the first Governor of Michigan.

A brother of John Mason, Jr., named James M. Mason, was a Senator from Virginia from 1846 to the War of the Rebellion, and was sent by the Confederate States, with John Slidell, as a Commissioner to England and France, was taken from the British Steamer Trent, but was released on demand of the British Government.

Bro. Mason received his early training partly at home under tutors and partly at school in Georgetown, and was sent to France to complete his education.

While a young man he served as Secretary of the U. S. Legation in Mexico, sailing from Old Point Comfort on the famous frigate Constitution and landing at Vera Cruz. An incident of his Mexican experience gives some idea of the man. During an uprising among the natives, and while the Consulate was being fired upon, he appeared on the veranda and waving the American flag dared them to fire upon it, which had the effect of dispersing the mob and quelling the excitement. After his return in 1829, his home was always in the District of Columbia, where he enjoyed a large and successful practice as a lawyer. He also conducted a mercantile business on Water Street, Georgetown, and traded extensively with the Indians. Later on, with several other citizens he became interested in silk worm culture and planted, with that object in view, large quantities of mulberry trees on the Heights of Georgetown.

He is described as about five feet eleven inches in height, very handsome, fine figure, with brown eyes and black hair; his manners were



very courtly and polished like the gentlemen of the "old school." He was a linguist of unusual attainments, speaking seven languages.

He was for many years preceding the War the Captain of the Potomac Dragoons, a local military organization.

He was a son-in-law of Gen. Alexander Macomb, U. S. A., of Detroit, the hero of the Battle of Plattsburg, and resided at different times on Bridge (now M) Street, near the Key Mansion, at Evermay, on the Heights of Georgetown, and latterly on the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W., between Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Streets, N. W.

His brief Masonic history follows: March 9, 1824, petition received in Potomac Lodge, No. 5, and it being regarded as an emergent case, was acted upon the same evening; March 11, 1824, entered and passed; March 28, 1825, raised, and asked and obtained leave to withdraw membership, being on the point of sailing for his post of duty in Mexico; October 16, 1841, petitioned same lodge for affiliation, and by-law requiring petitions to lie over being unanimously dispensed with, he was elected. He was chosen Grand Master December, 1841.

He died in the summer of 1859 in this city and his remains were interred in Christ Church Cemetery, Alexandria, Va.

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## WILLIAM D. MAGRUDER,

GRAND MASTER, 1845-46 AND 1854.

The subject of this sketch was born in Baltimore, Md., February 1, 1810, but was raised in Georgetown, D. C., where he studied medicine. During the cholera epidemic in 1832 he came to this city and was placed in charge of what was known as the Western Hospital. Subsequently he engaged in the general practice of medicine with unusual success.

A large portion of his time and attention was given to the service of the poor, and he was known as one who never hesitated to answer a call from the needy.

W. Bro. Magruder served for a number of years in both branches of the local City Council, and in 1856 was elected Mayor on the Anti-Know-Nothing ticket. Considering the financial condition of the city treasury the amount of improvement in his administration was notably great. During his term occurred the election riots of June, 1857, when he called for troops and the disturbance was quelled.

Bro. Magruder was a man of high talents and general popularity, a conspicuous practitioner of medicine and, as shown above, an active, useful citizen.

In the Masonic Fraternity he was a bright and shining light, and gave most liberally of his talents to the furtherance of the good of the Order. He was said to have been "a brother of superb genius, commanding talents, profound learning, cultivated taste, and classic eloquence," and his

death was the "occasion of no ordinary lamentation to the Craft and the community at large."

He died May 30, 1869, from a cancerous affection of the stomach from which he had suffered for a number of years, and in spite of a very heavy storm at the time his funeral drew an immense gathering.

Bro. Magruder was raised in Hiram Lodge March 2, 1843, served as Master for the years 1846, '48, '49, '52, and '53, and as Grand Master, as stated above, being elected to the latter position from the "floor."

He received the Capitular degrees in Potomac R. A. Chapter, No. 8, in 1846, and served as High Priest in 1849.

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## BENJAMIN BROWN FRENCH,

GRAND MASTER, 1847-53 AND 1868.

This distinguished Brother may properly be called the Father of Latter-Day Masonry in the District of Columbia, and it involves no invidious comparison to say that in the century now closed no man has more permanently left the impress of his individuality and genius upon our local institution, nor was more widely or favorably known throughout the Masonic world.

In the words of one of his contemporary biographers: "The history of our departed Brother is the story of a good man's path through the world; a life of labor and love; a stream of usefulness welling up from the fountain of his infancy, and increasing, broadening, and deepening until the close of his well-spent existence; a bright, cheerful river gladdening the hearts of thousands on its either side, and distributing with a generous hand countless blessings all along its course."

Bro. French was born at Chester, N. H., on the 4th day of September, 1800.

He was the son of Hon. Daniel French, an eminent lawyer of that State, and for many years its Attorney-General, and his ancestors on both sides of the family were among the oldest and most respected of the early settlers of New England.

He received a good common-school and academic education, which was completed at North Yarmouth Academy, Me., when he was about seventeen years of age. His family were anxious that he should enjoy the advantages of a collegiate course to fit him for a professional career, but his inclinations did not run in this direction and in 1819 he went to Boston with the intention of going to sea. Disappointed, however, in obtaining such a position as he desired in the merchant service he enlisted as a private in the United States Army and was stationed at Fort Warren, Boston Harbor, with a detachment of the 8th regiment of infantry. He was soon promoted to the rank of sergeant and served for four months,

when, at the earnest solicitation of friends, who furnished a substitute, he was discharged September 12, 1819.

Returning to his native town he took up the study of law, and after five years was admitted to practice as a member of the Rockingham bar.

In March, 1825, he removed to Hookset, N. H., and entered at once upon a promising practice. Immediately after actively engaging in his profession he was married to Miss Elizabeth Smith Richardson, daughter of Hon. W. W. Richardson, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New Hampshire, and this union proved to be a most happy one, Mrs. French continuing until her death, in 1861, to be a true and loving help-mate of her distinguished husband. In September, 1862, Bro. French was united in marriage to Miss Mary Ellen Brady, of Washington, a lady of estimable qualities.

His profession was not a congenial one to him and was destined not to be his life work. Shortly after his marriage he removed to Sutton, and, in 1827, to Newport, N. H. About this time he was elected assistant clerk of the New Hampshire Senate. He was also, while a resident of Newport, one of the editors and proprietors of the *New Hampshire Spectator*, and represented that town in the State Legislature in the years 1831, '32, and '33.

In December, 1833, he received the appointment of assistant clerk of the House of Representatives and removed to Washington, where he remained the balance of his life.

For some years he held the position of chief clerk of the House, which office he held until 1847, when he was defeated by one vote.

During his term as assistant clerk of the House he was instrumental in having the bill passed which marked the inauguration of the first magnetic company, of which he subsequently became president, and devoted himself to its interests, and to his energy, enterprise and business tact, the telegraph of today, then looked upon as chimerical nonsense, became a commercial possibility.

When his intimate friend, Gen. Pierce, was elected President of the United States, he was appointed Commissioner of Public Buildings and Grounds, but resigned this position in 1855, and returned to the practice of his profession.

Again appointed to the same position in 1861 he faithfully and acceptably discharged the duties of the office until 1867, when it was abolished by Congress.

During this latter term the bronze "Goddess of Freedom" was placed upon the dome of the Capitol building in this city, and, besides the name of Abraham Lincoln, has graven upon the head, "B. B. French, Commissioner of Public Buildings and Grounds."

He was chief marshal of the inaugural procession for President Lincoln in 1861, and one of the marshals at the dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, November 19, 1863, besides being the author of the hymn sung as part of the ceremonies immediately after the oration of Edward Everett, and just before President Lincoln delivered his famous address. In connection with this historical event the author of this work

deems it, under the circumstances, perhaps worthy of note that while in Gettysburg on that occasion and at other times Bro. French was the guest of his father, the Hon. Robert Goodloe Harper, and a great chum, so the author has been told, of himself, and the interest in this fact lies in the fantastic destiny that should bring that toddler at his knee in the far-off years to write his biography.

During his entire life in this city he took an active interest in municipal affairs and served for many years as President of the local Boards of Alderman and Common Council, and in every position in which he stood forth as the servant of the people his duties were discharged conscientiously, energetically, intelligently, and acceptably.

In religion Bro. French was Unitarian, but, in the language of one writer "what he called the 'religion of Masonry' was his guiding star."

As a scholar he was noted for his ripe culture and high attainments, and was probably excelled by few in a thorough knowledge of the classics of his own tongue.

He was an easy and extensive writer, his style being marked by a terse, plain, and vigorous use of the Saxon, and had the happy faculty of saying just what he wanted to say at the right right time and in the right manner.

As a poet his style was graceful, flowing, and simple, addressing itself to the better feelings of our nature, and marked by the true fire of genius.

Such, briefly, was the man and citizen, "but," quoting again from an early biographer, "there was another phase of his life concealed by the veils of our sanctuaries from the vulgar gaze of the profane; an inner history of usefulness, energy, and honor; a course in which he deserved and received the highest laurels, the priceless tributes of the regard and esteem of his brethren—more to be valued than the withering crowns of the political arena, which fade away with a breath; ever enduring memorials to true merit, and the rewards of a lifetime well spent in the service of that which is just, noble, and true; the recognition by the Fraternity of initiates of a burning zeal in the cause of universal brotherhood and common humanity."

Bro. French, in a short autobiographic résumé of his life, prepared a few years before his death, informs us that his first impression of the benefits and true grandeur of Freemasonry was occasioned by his attendance upon a Masonic funeral at the early age of fifteen years, and the determination was there made to knock at its portals for admission as soon as he should have reached the constitutional age.

There being no lodge in his native town he was unable to carry out his intention until after his removal to Sutton, when, in 1825, he made application to King Solomon's Lodge, No. 14, located at New London, about four miles from Bro. French's residence, and during the following winter he received the several symbolic degrees in that lodge.

Applying himself with his habitual energy and enthusiasm to the work

and lectures he soon acquired a thorough knowledge of their sublime principles and tenets.

In 1827 he removed to Newport and there affiliated with Corinthian Lodge, No. 28, in which lodge he served as Senior Warden and Master, filling the latter station in 1830-33.

In the same year he was appointed District Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, and in 1832, its Grand Marshal, both of which positions, as well as the East of Corinthian Lodge, he held at the time of his removal to Washington in 1833.

Bro. French, arriving in this city in the midst of the period of persecution, found Masonry nearly dormant, and altho he frequented the meetings of our lodges and Grand Lodge he did not affiliate until the organization of National Lodge, No. 12, in 1846.

On November 3 of the same year he was elected Grand Master of Masons for the District of Columbia and served as such with fidelity and marked ability until 1853, when he declined re-election. Subsequently, however, in 1867, he was again called to the Grand East and served during the Masonic year of 1868.

He received the Capitular degrees in Columbia Chapter, No. 15 (now No. 1), of the City of Washington, in November, 1846, and in 1847 was elected its "Most" Excellent High Priest. During the same year he was elected Grand King of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia, and after serving as Deputy was elected Grand High Priest in 1850, and was re-elected thereto annually until 1855, when he positively declined the honor.

April 8, 1847, Bro. French received the Order of the Temple at the hands of DeWitt Clinton Encampment, Brooklyn, N. Y. There being at that time no encampment of Knights Templar in this vicinity, he visited the above-mentioned city for the express purpose of receiving the Commandery degrees with a view of resuscitating the Order of the Temple in Washington.

On the 25th of the same month he succeeded in reviving the organization of Washington Commandery, No. 1, of this city, dormant for some years, and was elected its Eminent Commander, in which position he continued, with the exception of a single term, for twelve years. His Commandery always continued a favorite organization with him and was remembered by him in the distribution of his Masonic effects.

In 1850 he was elected Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, and also General Grand Secretary of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, both of which offices he held until 1859, when he was elected Grand Master of Knights Templar of the United States and positively declined re-election as Secretary of the General Grand Chapter. As Grand Master of Knights Templar he served six consecutive years.

During his administration as Grand Master of Masons of the District, he laid the cornerstone of the Smithsonian Institution, the Washington Monument, the Capitol Extension, and many other public buildings and churches in this city.





**THE ALBERT PIKE MONUMENT.**

Third Street and Indiana Avenue, Northwest.





In the year 1851 Bro. French received at the hands of illustrious Bro. Giles Ford Yates the degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, up to the thirty-second degree, and in 1859 was elected to the thirty-third and last degree, and became an active member of the Supreme Council for the District of Columbia. He was subsequently elected Grand Chancellor of the Supreme Council, and in May, 1870, a few months before his death, became Lieut. Grand Commander.

He departed this life August 12, 1870, after an illness of several days, of heart disease, in the seventieth year of his age.

Funeral services were held at his residence on East Capitol Street, and the Templar service at the Presbyterian Church on Four-and-a-half Street (John Marshall Place), after which the remains were conveyed to the Congressional Cemetery, where, at 8:30 P. M., August 14, 1870, by the aid of the three lesser lights, the solemn and imposing ceremonies of the Grand Lodge were performed.

Thus passed this good man and Mason.

His devotion to the Order is shown by the following extract from his will: "Eighth. To the Grand Lodge of F. A. A. M., of the District of Columbia, in testimony of my undying love for the Craft and my firm belief in the truth of the declaration of the great and good Washington, that Freemasonry is a society whose liberal principles are founded on the immutable laws of truth and justice, and my deep conviction of the usefulness of the Order, all my books on the subject of Freemasonry. And I here express my regret that it is not in my power to make that body a more valuable bequest."

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## CHARLES STITCHER FRAILEY,

GRAND MASTER, 1855-56.

Doctor Frailey was born December 29, 1803, in the City of Baltimore, Md., and was there educated, graduating from the University of Maryland in 1825, with a diploma as M. D. Removing to Ohio with a view of practicing his profession he was soon diverted therefrom by receiving an appointment as Assistant Surgeon in the United States Army, and repaired to Fort Brady, at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, where the extreme rigors of the climate soon implanted in him the germ of that disease which afflicted him through life. In the year 1835 he removed to Washington to accept a clerkship in the Land Office, where his abilities soon raised him to the position of chief clerk. He afterwards became chief clerk of the Interior Department, and spent the remainder of his life in this city.

Bro. Frailey was a man of distinguished ability, of vigorous and cultivated intellect, of stern integrity, and of honest purpose, and his untimely taking off at the age of fifty-two deprived the jurisdiction of

one of its most valued leaders. A classmate at the University has borne testimony that he was a most congenial and attractive companion, very brilliant in conversation, with a fine tenor voice, and immensely popular with both his fellow-students and the faculty. A daughter, Miss Frailey, now residing in Washington, recalls his charming personality, his wonderful memory, and his unusual ability as a reader, impersonating the characters so thoroughly as to lose his identity.

He was entered, passed, and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason between January 31 and February 4, 1828, in Tuscarora Lodge, No. 59, then held at New Philadelphia, in the State of Ohio. In 1846 he dimitted and became one of the original members of National Lodge, No. 12, of this jurisdiction. He was elected Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge in 1847, and acceptably filled that office until 1854, when he was elected Grand Master, being one of only three in our local history to reach that exalted station without previous service as Master of a subordinate lodge.

To Bro. Frailey is due the inauguration of the present elaborate system of correspondence, the first report along the lines now followed having been presented and signed by him as Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence in 1849.

He received the Capitular degrees in Columbia Chapter, No. 1, R. A. M., in 1854.

Bro. Frailey also possesses the distinction of being the first Past Grand Master to receive a jewel appropriate to his station, and the circumstances surrounding its presentation were as sad as they were unusual. The jewel having been authorized and procured the presentation was delayed by the condition of the brother's health until a time when it was seen that the Grim Destroyer was marching on with relentless steps, when a committee repaired to the home of the sufferer, and in the presence only of his wife, Past Grand Master B. B. French, in a few beautiful and feeling words, made the presentation, to which Bro. Frailey submitted a written reply which is preserved in the Report of the Grand Lodge Proceedings of 1857 (p. 11), and is recommended to the perusal of serious readers as the utterance of one who stood upon the brink of eternity and to whom in some measure had already come "the light that never was on sea or land."

Nineteen days thereafter, on May 24, 1857, he passed away.

His funeral took place two days later at Congressional Cemetery, under the auspices of the Grand Lodge, with Grand Master George C. Whiting conducting the Masonic service, and Past Grand Master B. B. French as eulogist.

A friend and admirer has left this tribute to his memory:

"A grave bedewed with manly tears,  
A name spotless and bright,  
The sum of all true fame."

## GEORGE C. WHITING,

GRAND MASTER, 1857-61 AND 1865-67.

To this Brother belongs the distinction of the longest service in that capacity in the history of the jurisdiction, with the exception of M. W. Bro. French, whose terms aggregated the same number of years.

Bro. Whiting was born in Fauquier County, Va., in 1816, but in his boyhood came to this city with his family and remained throughout his life. It is related as from the lips of Bro. Whiting himself that his father, a clerk in one of the Government Departments, had, at the time of the election of Andrew Jackson, strongly espoused the candidacy of Adams and expected early removal from office therefor, but a shower chancing to catch the President on one of his daily walks near the Whiting home he took shelter there, and both the President and the elder Whiting being Masons and recognizing each other as such, a strong friendship sprang up between them which lasted throughout the life of the latter and caused the President to take a personal interest in the affairs of the family when the death of George's father left them dependent upon the young man for support, and to have him appointed to a position in the Treasury Department.

It is also said that during the life of the elder Whiting in Virginia he became seriously involved financially, and that these obligations were all finally wiped out as soon as the son was able to earn sufficient money to do so, an incident which speaks volumes for the character of the man.

During his adult life he filled many important positions in the civil department of the Government. He was Commissioner of Pensions during the administration of President Buchanan and when succeeded in that position was transferred to a specially created office concerning the African slave trade. He was Acting Secretary of the Interior a number of times and possessed a practical knowledge of the affairs of that Department which rendered his service of great value for many years.

Bro. Whiting was a man of many virtues. Noble-minded and generous to a fault, urbane and gentle in demeanor, he endeared himself to all with whom he came into contact, while the dignified and impartial manner in which he presided as Grand Master and the learning, skill, and integrity he brought to bear upon the duties of that high office, contributed in the largest measure to the elevation of Masonry in this jurisdiction to a higher plane.

He passed away September 4, 1867, in the fifty-first year of his age and while Grand Master, and was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, Georgetown, D. C., September 6, the Grand Lodge conducting the Masonic rites in the presence of a concourse of Masons and citizens that testified to the universal esteem in which he had been held. A few years later a suitable monument was erected by the Fraternity to mark the last resting place of this good man and Mason.

In Masonic circles Bro. Whiting was for many years a most active and valuable worker. He was initiated in National Lodge, No. 12, March

17; passed March 31, and raised April 29, 1846, and after serving as Junior Deacon for one term, filled the office of Secretary during the years 1850-51; withdrew December 27, 1853, to become a charter member of B. B. French Lodge; served the latter lodge as Senior Warden while U. D., and for the year 1854, filled the office of Worshipful Master during 1855-56, and was elected an honorary member April 3, 1865.

He entered the official line of the Grand Lodge as Grand Secretary in 1856, and the following year began his long service as Grand Master, as shown above.

He received the Capitular degrees in Columbia R. A. Chapter, No. 1, April 19, April 26, and May 3, '64.

George C. Whiting Lodge, No. 22, chartered in 1868, takes its name from this eminent Mason.

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## CHARLES FREDERICK STANSBURY,

GRAND MASTER, 1862 AND 1871-74,

Born in New York City October 13, 1821, he spent his boyhood and early youth in Washington, at the old family mansion on Seventh Street, N. W., opposite the General Post-Office.

Bro. Stansbury was educated at Princeton College, N. J., and graduated therefrom when nineteen years old. He subsequently studied medicine, but not having a taste for the practice abandoned it for the law, which was more congenial, making a specialty of patent law.

He was a finished scholar, a zealous student, a forcible and vigorous writer, a pleasing speaker, and as a husband, parent, brother, and friend few men were more loved and revered.

He was appointed by President Pierce as Commissioner of the great English Exposition and World's Fair in 1854, and remained there several years, frequently visiting Continental Europe during the period.

In his earlier days he was associated with his brother, Col. Howard M. Stansbury, of the U. S. Topographical Engineers, in making surveys in the Western Territories.

In Masonry Grand Master Stansbury was a star of the first magnitude, not only locally but nationally, and his active participation in all its affairs of the highest and most lasting value.

On the occasion of the great calamity which befell Chicago in 1871; he proceeded personally with several brethren to carry to the distressed brethren of that city the offering of the District, and so tactfully was this mission performed that later he was again called to Chicago as one of a commission to examine the record of the Relief Committee.

Prominent among his good works were his untiring efforts on behalf of the long-neglected Washington Monument, and to his active and efficient labors as a member of the Monument Society is the country especially indebted for the renewed interest and work on that structure.



*Jas. A. Welton*

GRAND MASTER, 1904.





Bro. Stansbury was initiated in St. John's Lodge, No. 11, February 7, 1857; passed March 13, 1857, and raised May 13, 1857; withdrew July 14, 1865, and affiliated January 31, 1882; was Secretary in 1859, Senior Warden, 1860, and Master, 1861 and 1863. He also held honorary membership in Hiram Lodge, No. 10, being elected thereto in 1873.

He received the Capitular degrees in Washington R. A. Chapter, No. 2, in the spring of 1857.

His death occurred January 31, 1882, and the following extract from the tribute of the special committee of the Grand Lodge reflects perhaps the estimation in which this good man was held by his contemporaries:

"\* \* \* A great leader has passed away, his voice is hushed in death; 'but tho dead, he yet speaketh.' He has left us an example of intelligence and refinement worthy of any age. The home circle has lost a kind husband and father. The community an exemplary and honored citizen. The Masonic Fraternity a tried and trusted leader, an eminent expounder of its principles, a zealous worker, an enthusiastic supporter, a true member. His many valuable contributions to Masonic literature and jurisprudence, his exalted rank and cultivated intellect, his devotion to duty and noble efforts for the good of a beloved Order, make his loss most sensibly felt and lamented, not only as a loyal and popular brother Mason, but as one of its most cultivated, gifted, and refined exemplars, besides a most conscientious and unselfish friend and advisor."

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## YELVERTON PEYTON PAGE,

GRAND MASTER, 1863.

Bro. Page possessed one of the most interesting personalities in the history of the Grand Lodge, and through a eulogy pronounced upon him by his intimate friend, Past Grand Master B. B. French, in 1863, we are permitted an insight into his life and character as fortunate as it is unusual.

He was born in Washington, D. C., July 17, 1823, of parents noted for their integrity and worth, and among the prominent citizens of the city. They were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as was also their son, and his early youth under the care of such parents promised to develop a character for goodness, truth, and morality—which promise was amply fulfilled. In early boyhood he was a page in the U. S. Senate, and became a favorite with many of the Senators. During the recess periods he devoted himself to study, and later became one of the most important clerks in the office of the Secretary of the Senate. He was initiated in Naval Lodge, No. 4, June 5, 1847; passed July 31, 1847, and raised August 2, 1847, and served as Master during the years 1852, 1856-58; exalted in Washington R. A. Chapter; made a Knight Templar May 11, 1853. Besides his service as Master he held various offices in Naval Lodge. In manner he was dignified, yet kind and courteous. As a Mason his charity was known throughout the jurisdiction; to him Free-

masonry was not a mere shadow, it was a solemn and abiding obligation. In the Grand Lodge he stood high, and was bold and decided in the expression of opinions he considered right. He was elected Grand Master for the year 1863, while ill, and was installed in his home. In his address on that occasion he closed with the pathetic words: "You have summoned me in my weakness; you must sustain me by your strength." At this time he was apparently convalescing from an attack of pneumonia, and while he became better, he never regained his health, and died September 26, 1863, while Grand Master of the District, and but forty years of age.

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### JAMES EDWARD FRISBY HOLMEAD,

GRAND MASTER, 1864.

To this Brother belongs the distinction of having been the youngest man to fill the Grand East in the century of the existence of this Grand Lodge, attaining that high office when only twenty-nine years of age.

Bro. Holmead was born in Baltimore, Md., August 13, 1835, and received his education from his father in schools taught by him in Baltimore, Ellicotts Mills, and other places. Upon reaching his majority he took up his residence in Washington, where he remained the balance of his life.

For a number of years he held responsible positions in the Patent Office, but in 1865 resigned and engaged in business as a patent attorney and agent, in which he became very successful. While taking an active interest in all public matters he was particularly interested in the public schools, serving for several years as a school trustee in the Fourth District (South Washington), and by his energy and devotion to duty contributed greatly toward establishing a perfect school system here.

He was a man possessed of very rare qualities. As an orator he had few equals, and in all deliberations he was listened to with the closest attention. He was an earnest and zealous Mason and a valued citizen, and his rise in the Fraternity and success in business and official life has rarely been equaled for rapidity. His uniform courtesy endeared him to all with whom he came in contact, and his untimely demise, which occurred October 19, 1876, was mourned in every walk of life. His funeral, which took place in Rock Creek Cemetery under the auspices of the Grand Lodge with Grand Master I. L. Johnson officiating, was attended not only by large representations from the Masonic bodies but by an unusual concourse of citizens, testifying to the universal esteem in which he was held.

Bro. Holmead was entered as a member of our Fraternity in St. John's Lodge, No. 11, of this city, September 29, passed to the degree of Fellow Craft October 29, and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason November 28, 1856. He remained a member of this lodge until May 5, 1857, when he dimitted and became a charter member of Dawson Lodge, No. 16, in which lodge he was elected Junior Warden December 14, 1857,

and was re-elected to the same office the following year. After a service of two years, 1860-61, he was elected Master, and in 1865 was re-elected and held the office for two years. November 3, 1863, he was elected Grand Master, having previously served as Senior Grand Warden. In 1867 he was also elected to honorary membership in Hope Lodge, No. 20.

He was exalted to the Royal Arch degree in Washington Chapter, No. 16 (then under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia), March 23, 1857. After filling the positions of Principal Sojourner, Captain of the Host, and King, he was elected High Priest of that Chapter October 27, 1860. Dmitted November 18, 1873, to become a charter member of Mt. Horeb Chapter, No. 7. In 1862 he was elected to the office of Grand Scribe of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia, and in 1867 had the distinguished honor of being chosen as the first Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, which position he filled for two years, and to the present time he is looked upon as the one to whom the success of our local Grand Chapter is due.

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## ROBERT BRUCE DONALDSON,

GRAND MASTER, 1869-70.

Born at Waterford, Loudoun County, Virginia, October 11, 1826, at the age of seven he removed to Alexandria, where his early education was obtained in a private school. In 1842 he came to Washington, where he was first engaged in mathematical instrument making and manufactured many of the instruments used in the telegraphic service of that day. Later he studied dentistry, and for a few years was associated with his teacher, Dr. R. Finley Hunt, in that profession, after which, for a period of forty-five years, he enjoyed a large and lucrative practice, during the course of which he served some time as Professor of Operative Dentistry in the Maryland Dental College in Baltimore and was the recipient of honorary degrees from two dental colleges. In the course of his long practice he invented several new and useful dental instruments, and after his retirement from active work in his profession, by reason of failing eyesight, engaged in the manufacture of these instruments, from which he acquired a comfortable fortune.

He was summoned to the presence of our Supreme Grand Master at 9 o'clock P. M. on November 22, 1907.

Bro. Donaldson was made a Master Mason in Federal Lodge, No. 1, of this jurisdiction December 4, 1855. He was also an honorary member of Pentalpha Lodge, No. 23, and Hiram Lodge, No. 10.

He became a Royal Arch Mason in Columbia Chapter, No. 1, January 17, 1862, and a Knight Templar in Washington Commandery, No. 1, October 14, 1868. In the Scottish Rite he received the fourteenth degree in Mithras Lodge of Perfection, May 18, 1888; the eighteenth degree

in Evangelist Chapter Rose Croix, June 22, 1888; the thirtieth degree in Robert de Bruce Council of Kadosh, April 1, 1889; the thirty-second degree in Albert Pike Consistory, April 15, 1889; and the thirty-third degree (honorary) in the Supreme Council for the Southern Jurisdiction, October 23, 1903.

Symbolic Masonry, however, was our Brother's first and best love, and official honors in other branches of the Fraternity had no attraction for him. He served as Worshipful Master of Federal Lodge in 1863 and 1865; as Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge in 1864, 1865, 1866, and 1867; and as Grand Master in 1869 and 1870.

He was the first President of the Masonic Temple Association, and it was his earnest wish that he might live to see the new Temple completed. His last appearance in the Grand Lodge was at the special communication of June 8, 1907, when the cornerstone of the new Temple was laid.

M. W. Bro. Donaldson was a sound Masonic jurist, the advantages he derived in his earlier years from his association with such master minds as French, Whiting, and Stansbury being supplemented by a close study of the ethical and philosophical teachings of the Craft. As Chairman of the Committee on Jurisprudence he rendered many years of valuable service to the Grand Lodge. Genial and kindly in his intercourse with his fellow-men, sincere in his friendships, charitable to the unfortunate, a true Mason, an upright citizen, and a devoted husband and father, his memory will be cherished in the hearts of his brethren, and in the love and esteem of his fellow-citizens of the community in which his long and busy life was spent.

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## ISAAC LA RUE JOHNSON,

GRAND MASTER, 1875-76.

Bro. Johnson was born in Warren County, N. J., October 16, 1837. He came to Washington when a youth, was graduated from Columbia College, studied law, and was admitted to the bar of the courts of the District. In 1862 he was commissioned a captain in the 153d Pennsylvania Infantry, and served in the Army of the Potomac. Resigning his commission in 1863 he returned to Washington and engaged in the practice of law in which he soon won a reputation highly honorable.

An able lawyer, his love of Masonry led him to devote a large portion of his time to the service of the Craft, bringing to that service one of the strongest minds ever devoted to it in this jurisdiction. He was a logical and forceful speaker and writer, and his reputation as an able and learned Mason extended far beyond the confines of this jurisdiction. Genial, witty, thoroughly informed on a great variety of subjects, he will long be remembered for his qualities of mind and heart.

Bro. Johnson was made a Master Mason in National Lodge, No. 12, of this jurisdiction, December 12, 1865, and served as Master of his Lodge



*Laurie R. Ginn*

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GRAND MASTER, 1905.





in 1870 and 1871. His zeal and ability soon won him recognition in the Grand Lodge where he was elected Grand Master for the years 1875 and 1876.

November 25, 1875, he was elected to honorary membership in George C. Whiting Lodge, No. 22.

He received the Capitular degrees in Eureka Chapter, No. 4, R. A. M., in 1867, and was High Priest of that Chapter in 1870. He entered the official line of the Grand Chapter as Grand King in 1873, and became Grand High Priest in 1877.

He was knighted in Columbia Commandery, No. 2, of Washington, D. C., March 22, 1868; dimitted in 1872 to become a charter member of DeMolay Mounted Commandery, No. 4, which body he served as Eminent Commander in 1880.

He also received the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite degrees from fourth to thirty-second in the lodge, chapter, council, and consistory of this jurisdiction.

He closed his Masonic and earthly career of usefulness in this city on Thursday, December 28, 1899, and his remains were interred at Oak Hill Cemetery December 31, 1899, with Masonic honors performed by the Grand Lodge.

In the words of one of his contemporaries, "This well-known brother, honored and distinguished in the Masonic bodies of our jurisdiction, went down into the shadow of death full of experience, full of kind words, and full of good companionship. He was endowed with a brilliant and comprehensive intellect, kindness of heart, and a warm, genial disposition. As a soldier he won honorable distinction; as a citizen, respect and esteem; as a Mason he merited and received honors and preferment."

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## ELDRED GRIFFITH DAVIS,

GRAND MASTER, 1877-78.

This Brother was born in Frederick County, Md., near the town of New Market, December 25, 1837. While an infant his father moved to Carroll County, and a few years later to Howard County, in the same State. He received his education in the public schools of Maryland, attending during the winter and such portions of the summer as he could be spared from the work of farming. At the age of seventeen he received a position in a store in Washington, first as a boy of all work, next as salesman, and later as bookkeeper, and remained there until the death of his father, which occurred in January, 1860, when he returned to Maryland and took charge of the home farm, remaining four years, at the expiration of which time, being offered another position in Washington, he accepted, disposed of his country property, and removed to this city with his mother and two sisters, and became a clerk in the wholesale store of

S. S. Corbin & Co. Soon afterward he went to Richmond, Va., and opened a branch store for the firm, and so successful was he that within twelve months he was offered a place in the firm and a half interest in the Richmond branch.

This offer he declined, as he preferred to accept a tender on the part of an old Maryland friend of the family, D. H. Gaither, to enter as an equal partner in a similar business. Mr. Gaither furnished the capital and Mr. Davis the experience, and the firm of Davis & Gaither was formed in 1866.

The relations of the partners always were pleasant, and within three years Mr. Davis was enabled to buy out Mr. Gaither's interest and continue on his own account until 1890, when he sold his interest in the business.

In May, 1888, he was appointed Collector of Taxes for the District of Columbia, which position he held for over twenty years. At the time of his death he was a member of the Board of Assessors. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Columbia Railway Co. for over twenty years, and was its Vice-President when it was absorbed by the Washington Railway and Electric Co. He was a Director of the Firemen's Insurance Co., of Washington and Georgetown, for a quarter of a century, and in the last years of his life its President.

His long service in these important positions testifies to his business worth and sterling integrity, while his ability as an executive officer and his thorough knowledge of Masonic law won for him an enviable reputation as Grand Master and has been at the service of the Fraternity for the thirty years which elapsed after his incumbency of the office of Grand Master, his active interest and participation in Masonic affairs having never wavered. He was Chairman of the Jurisprudence Committee of the Grand Lodge at the time of his death and had served a number of years as a member thereof.

Quiet and unassuming in disposition, Bro. Davis was yet of strong, virile character and made a permanent impress on the institution of Masonry in this jurisdiction.

He was initiated in Lebanon Lodge, No. 7, October 19, 1866; passed November 16, 1866, and raised January 18, 1867; was Senior Warden of his lodge, 1871 and 1872, and Worshipful Master in 1873; was J. G. W. in 1874; S. G. W., 1875-76, and Grand Master, 1877-78. He was elected to honorary membership in Acacia Lodge, No. 18, April 11, 1882.

He was exalted in Washington Chapter, No. 2, R. A. M., October 31, 1868, and served the Chapter as High Priest in 1874.

He was knighted in Washington Commandery, No. 1, K. T., March 24, 1869, and was Eminent Commander for the years 1876 and 1877.

At the organization of the Grand Commandery, January 14, 1896, he was elected Grand Captain-General, and after serving in the succeeding stations of Grand Generalissimo and Deputy Grand Commander, was Grand Commander in 1898.

He received the thirty-second degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in Albert Pike Consistory September 20, 1888.

He was a member of the Masonic Veteran Association and of Almas Temple of the Mystic Shrine.

He died suddenly at Atlantic City, N. J., March 22, 1910, and was interred in Oak Hill Cemetery March 24, the Knight Templar burial service being performed by the Grand Commandery and the Blue Lodge service by the Grand Lodge.

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## HORACE A. WHITNEY,

GRAND MASTER, 1879.

Born in the State of New York in 1841, he served during the Civil War in the 1st N. Y. L. A., enlisting October 1, 1861, at Phoenix, N. Y., to serve three years; was appointed Sergeant October 10, 1861; discharged November 25, 1863, to enter the general service, and was subsequently detailed for duty in the Bureau of Colored Troops under Col. C. W. Foster. In 1867 he was transferred to the Treasury Department and after passing through the various grades became Cashier, which position he occupied at the time of his death.

W. Bro. Whitney is described as having been "amiable in disposition, courteous and gentlemanly in conduct, and of estimable character; he was most beloved by those who knew him best, and was sincerely mourned by all his friends and brethren." His zeal for the institution of Masonry led to his rapid preferment while a comparatively young man, and his administration of every office to which he was called testified to the wisdom of the confidence reposed in his ability.

He died very suddenly in this city July 3, 1886, and was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, the Grand Lodge conducting the Masonic services.

W. Bro. Whitney was initiated, passed, and raised in Washington Centennial Lodge, No. 14, in June and August, 1867; served as Junior Warden in 1869; Senior Warden, 1870, and Master, 1872-74. He was elected to the position of Grand Master December, 1878, after filling several of the subordinate chairs in the Grand Lodge.

He received the Capitular degrees in LaFayette Chapter, No. 5, R. A. M., January 4 and 18, 1873, and served as Scribe in 1878.

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## JOSEPH SYLVESTER McGOY,

GRAND MASTER, 1880.

The subject of this sketch has to his credit more than three decades of active and valuable work for the benefit of the Fraternity. Possessed of an unusual intellectual equipment he has also ever been an indefatigable worker, and these qualities, united with a magnetic and pleasing personality, a courteous demeanor, a genius for executive work, and an excep-

tional ability as a convincing speaker, gave to the administration of the many offices to which he has been called a rare degree of success. His autobiography, amended only to the extent of several additions his modesty ignored, is of such interest that it is here quoted in extenso:

"I was born on a farm, some five miles back of the present town of New Rochelle, Westchester Co., New York, on Monday, November 18, 1839. My parents removed to New York City in 1844, and when seven years of age I entered the public schools of that city. In September, 1854, I was promoted to the grammar class, and graduated therefrom in June, 1855. Subsequently, I entered St. John's College, N. Y., and in June, 1857, concluded my sophomore year. By reason, however, of the financial panic of that year, I entered the service of the Methodist Book Concern, then located in New York City, where I remained until September, 1857, when I secured a school. I taught school from September, 1857, until June, 1860, when I was offered a more advantageous position to teach at Montgomery, Ala. I sailed from New York in July, 1860, with the purpose of accepting the position. On arriving at Savannah, Ga., I proceeded by rail to Montgomery, but on arriving there I found that sentiment was such, at that time, that I returned to New York.

"Being desirous of trying my fortune on the Pacific Coast, and with that object in view, there being a regiment of cavalry there at the time, to which I was assured I would be assigned, I enlisted in the regular army, for the cavalry service, on the 27th of August, 1860. Instead of being assigned to the Department of the Pacific, I was assigned to the Department of Texas, commanded by Maj. Gen. David E. Twiggs. I was assigned to Company B, 2d U. S. Cavalry, the officers of which were Edmund Kirby Smith, Captain; Walter H. Jenifer, 1st Lieut.; and Fitz-Hugh Lee, 2d Lieut. The field officers of the regiment were Albert Sidney Johnson, Colonel; Robert E. Lee, Lieut. Col.; George H. Thomas, Senior Major, and Earl Van Dorn, Junior Major. The regiment, rank and file, was considered the best and its officers the ablest in the service. For a time I was much disappointed with my assignment, but in a short time, owing to the consideration shown me by both officers and men, I became fully reconciled with it.

"My company was stationed at Camp Colorado, Coleman Co., Texas, and during the time I was there, with drill, and reading the northern papers and magazines a month old, time passed pleasantly. We learned of the election of President Lincoln a few days before Christmas, 1860, and subsequently that the Southern States had, or would soon secede from the Union. Rumor was abroad, but it was not until the military forces were surrendered by Maj. Gen. Twiggs, commanding the Department of Texas, that we realized our condition. By reason of the influence of our officers and the fact that the paroling officer of the State was our own Major (Van Dorn), who had resigned from the army, my regiment alone of all the troops stationed in Texas, was not 'captured and paroled.'

"My company left Camp Colorado in February, 1861, and proceeded to San Antonio, thence to Indianola, where we embarked, leaving only

our horses and horse equipments with the State authorities, and proceeded, via Key West and Havana, for New York, where we arrived early in April, 1861. Maj. Geo. H. Thomas was at the wharf to receive us. That afternoon we left for Carlisle, Pa., where we obtained our remounts, and on May 2, 1861, proceeded to Washington, D. C., where we arrived May 5, 1861.

"On the night of May 31-June 1, 1861, under instructions from Lieut. Gen. Winfield Scott, my company made a raid on Fairfax, C. H. We lost four or five men and some horses, and regained our camp near Falls Church, Va., on the morning of June 1, 1861. On July 18, 1861, my Division (the First), Army of Northeastern Virginia, made a reconnaissance along the Confederate lines at Bull Run, and was with General Tyler, its commander during the engagement. On the 19th of July, 1861, I was one of General Barnard's escort, in his observations of the several fords along the line of Bull Run. I participated in the Battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861, and my company formed a part of the rear guard, at Centerville and Fairfax Court House, during the retreat of the Federal Army from the battlefield.

"I also participated in the battles of Williamsburg, Gaines' Mill, Savage Station, Nelson's Farm, Glendale, and Malvern Hill, during the Peninsular Campaign. I was wounded in the latter engagement. Subsequently to my discharge from the army, on April 1, 1863, to accept an appointment in the office of the Adjutant-General of the Army, I served in Company A, War Department Rifles, from June, 1864, until June, 1865, my commissions being signed by Assistant Secretary of War Tucker.

"During my service in the army I held the following grades: recruit, private, corporal, duty sergeant, orderly sergeant, second lieutenant, first lieutenant, and captain, Assistant Adjutant-General of Volunteers.

"I received the Master Mason's degree in LaFayette Lodge, No. 19, March 11, 1867; the Royal Arch degree in Mt. Vernon Chapter, No. 20, April 22, 1867, including the Royal, Select, and Super Excellent Master's degrees, which were conferred in the Chapters of this jurisdiction in those early days. I was Master of LaFayette Lodge, No. 19, 1873-74, and after filling several of the subordinate chairs was Grand Master for the year 1880; was High Priest of LaFayette R. A. Chapter, No. 5, during the years 1874 and 1875, and Grand High Priest of this jurisdiction for the year 1878; Master of LaFayette Council, No. 1, Royal Select and Super Excellent Masters, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Council of Massachusetts, from 1875 until 1883; Charter Master of Washington Council, 1888 to 1890; knighted in Columbia Commandery, No. 2, Knights Templar, March 14, 1868; was Grand Lecturer of the Grand R. Chapter of the District of Columbia from December, 1873, to December, 1875, and Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia 1876. In the absence of the High Priest of LaFayette Chapter in Europe nearly the whole of the year 1873, and while King of that Chapter and Grand Lecturer of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, at the request of the Grand Chapter of Canada, and as representing LaFayette Chapter, I conferred the Royal Arch degree on three actual candidates



before the Grand Chapter of Canada, in the town hall at Kingston, Canada. I held, at various times during my Masonic career, the offices of Grand Representative of the Grand Chapter of Canada; the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia, B. C.; the Grand Mark Lodge of England, Scotland, and Wales, and the Colonies and Dependencies of the British Crown, and of the Grand Lodge of Arkansas, F. A. A. M., which latter representation I still hold."

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## NOBLE DANFORTH LARNER,

GRAND MASTER, 1881-82.

Born in Washington, D. C., January 9, 1830, he received his education in private schools, and learned the "art preservative of all arts" in the printing office of his grandfather, Jacob Gideon. In April, 1861, he answered President Lincoln's first call for ninety-day men and served until expiration of term of enlistment. In the same year he was appointed to a clerkship in the Interior Department. In 1863 he was elected a member of the City Council, and served for three years. In 1865 he was elected Secretary of the National Union Fire Insurance Company, which position he retained until his death. In 1867 he organized and carried to a successful conclusion the project for the erection of the old Masonic Temple, and from that time until his death was Secretary of the Masonic Hall Association. He was also for many years Secretary of the Home Plate Glass Insurance Company, and prominently identified with many other business enterprises.

While a member of the City Council Bro. Larner introduced many important measures, among them the bill to arch the old canal, to sewer the old Slash Run on L Street, and to arch the sewer which ran from what is now Florida Avenue, down to Eighth Street, N. W. Defeated then they were later adopted by the Board of Public Works. He was also active in the passage of the act to get a paid fire department and the establishment of a fire-alarm telegraph system.

Bro. Larner was made a Master Mason in Benjamin B. French Lodge, No. 15, October 19, 1863. On December 28 of the same year he became a charter member of LaFayette Lodge, No. 19, and served the lodge as Secretary in 1864, Senior Warden in 1865, and Worshipful Master in 1866 and 1867.

In the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia he was elected Senior Grand Deacon for the year 1866, Grand Secretary for five years from 1867 to 1871, and Grand Master for the years 1881 and 1882.

He was exalted in Mount Vernon R. A. Chapter, No. 3, December 25, 1865. May 24, 1867, he became a charter member and the first High Priest of LaFayette R. A. Chapter, No. 5, and presided over that body in 1867, 1868, and 1869.

He took a prominent part in the organization of the Grand Royal

Arch Chapter of the District of Columbia, and served that body as Grand Secretary from 1867 to 1871, Deputy Grand High Priest in 1873, and Grand High Priest in 1874 and 1875.

He was present at every convocation of the General Grand Chapter from 1868 to 1900, and was elected General Grand Captain of the Host in 1874, General Grand Scribe in 1877, General Grand King in 1880, Deputy General Grand High Priest in 1883, and General Grand High Priest in 1886, serving three years in each office.

He assisted in forming LaFayette Council, R. and S. M., now extinct, in 1870, and was the presiding officer of that body in 1871. March 19, 1894, he affiliated with Washington Council, No. 1.

He was knighted in Columbia Commandery, No. 2, K. T., May 4, 1866; became a charter member of DeMolay Mounted Commandery, No. 4, February 16, 1872, and was Eminent Commander in 1878.

On the organization of the Grand Commandery of the District of Columbia, January 14, 1896, he was elected the first Grand Commander, and served in that office for the initial term ending at the First Annual Conclave, May 11, 1896.

He received the degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, from fourth to thirty-second, from Grand Commander Albert Pike, in 1878.

Bro. Larner was for nearly half a century a potential force in the business, social, and religious life of Washington. He was abundantly endowed with the qualities that make for success—great moral and physical courage, sound judgment, indomitable energy, and unswerving integrity—and it was said of him that no enterprise with which he was connected was ever known to fail. He was for forty years a member of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, and it was within its sacred walls, March 19, 1903, that the great change came to him, when “in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye,” he painlessly sank to rest.

“Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.”

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## EDWARD H. CHAMBERLIN,

GRAND MASTER, 1883.

Bro. Chamberlin was born in Philadelphia, Pa., May 12, 1842, and at the age of thirteen years removed with his parents to Prince William County, Virginia, where he lived until the outbreak of the Civil War, when he left the State and went to Northern Pennsylvania and volunteered his services in support of the Union, but was denied enlistment on account of the loss of the sight of one eye. He subsequently went to New York State and made another effort to enlist, but failed from the same cause. In 1862 he took up his abode in the District of Columbia, where he continued to reside until the date of his death, September 23,

1901. From the year 1867 to the time of his death he was engaged in the produce commission business, and established and enjoyed an énviable reputation for business probity and fair dealing.

He was initiated, passed, and raised in 1867 in The New Jerusalem Lodge, No. 9, F. A. A. M., of this jurisdiction, and served as its Worshipful Master in 1874, and again in 1890. In 1878 he served as Grand Marshal of the Grand Lodge, and successively filled the offices of Junior Grand Warden, Senior Grand Warden, and Deputy Grand Master, and in 1883 served as M. W. Grand Master. He was exalted in Columbia R. A. Chapter, No. 1, May 17, 1871, was High Priest in 1875, and served as Secretary from 1877 to 1901. He was greeted as a Royal and Select Master in Washington Council, No. 1, March 30, 1889, and was Th. Ill. Master in 1893. He was knighted in Columbia Commandery, No. 2, K. T., August 4, 1871, and served as its Eminent Commander in 1886, and as its Treasurer from 1896 to 1901, and was Treasurer of the Grand Commandery, K. T., of the District of Columbia from its organization in 1896 until his death. He was also a member of Mithras Lodge of Perfection, Evangelist Chapter Rose Croix, Robert de Bruce Council of Kadosh, and Albert Pike Consistory, A. A. S. R., for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States, and was Treasurer of Almas Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., at the time of his death and for many years prior thereto.

His death occurred September 23, 1901, at Phoenix, Ariz., where he had gone in the hope of restoring his health which had been impaired during the previous year.

Bro. Chamberlin was a man of many noble traits of character and of a high order of natural ability and force of character. He possessed a kindly heart and never turned a deaf ear to an appeal for charity, and in his daily life faithfully and conscientiously practiced the sublime teachings of our Fraternity, and endeavored to do his duty to God, to his neighbor, and to himself. With an enthusiasm for the Craft that knew no bounds, he won high honors in all branches of Masonry and was a potent factor in the up-building of the Fraternity. A plain man in everything, honest and sincere, he did not hesitate to oppose what he conceived to be wrong, and to champion the cause of that which he conceived to be right.

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### MYRON M. PARKER,

GRAND MASTER, 1881-85.

Born in Fairfax, Vermont, November 7, 1843, Bro. Parker came of a martial, patriotic family, both of his grandfathers having been soldiers in the War of 1812, and his great grandfathers soldiers in the Revolutionary Army, as also in the War of 1812.

He was a student at Fort Edward Collegiate Institute at the breaking out of the Civil War, and in December, 1863, enlisted in Company M, 1st Vermont Cavalry, in which organization he served until the close of the war, taking part in several important battles.



**THE HOUSE OF THE TEMPLE, THIRD AND E STREETS, N. W.**

Now known as Scottish Rite Cathedral and occupied by the local bodies of that Rite and Cathedral Chapter, No. 14, O. E. S.



In 1865 he was appointed to a clerkship in the War Department. In 1879 he was appointed Assistant Postmaster of Washington and so continued until 1881, when he embarked in private business.

Bro. Parker is a graduate of the law department of the Columbia University in the class of 1876. He was one of the organizers of the Columbia National Bank and the American Security and Trust Co.; was first President of the Board of Trade and re-elected three times; is a director in many of the financial institutions of the city; also a director in the Columbia Hospital for Women, Providence Hospital, and the Washington Home for Foundlings.

He was appointed one of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia by President Harrison; was an Aide-de-Camp with the rank of Colonel on the Staff of the Governor of Vermont, and was a member of the National Republican Committee for eight years.

Bro. Parker devoted a number of years to the real estate business, in which he was very successful, but in 1894, withdrew from that field and gave his time and attention to corporations, and in this line has very extensive connections, both local and otherwise.

He has always been an advocate of the outdoor life, and finds health and pleasure through his association with numerous hunting, fishing, and other clubs.

Bro. Parker is one of the big men physically as well as mentally in the District of Columbia, being several inches over six feet in height, and has an unusually pleasing and dignified presence. His courteous and affable demeanor has given him a wide popularity in many circles, while his executive ability, tact, and force gave to his administration as Grand Master a distinguished place in the history of the local Craft. One instance of his firmness and thorough conception of the dignity of the Fraternity gives this point: Near the close of the first year of his administration as Grand Master the Grand Lodge received an invitation from a Joint Committee of Congress for the Masonic Fraternity to join in the parade on the occasion of the dedication of the Washington Monument, which was firmly declined by Grand Master Parker unless the Masons should have assigned them their proper part of the ceremonies. A correspondence ensued which resulted in the Grand Masonic display upon that occasion, February 21, 1885, the Government having finally conceded the point that the Grand Lodge should perform the Masonic ceremony of dedication.

He received the symbolic degrees in Warner Lodge, No. 50, of Cambridge, Vt., in 1864; dimitted therefrom and affiliated with Benj. B. French Lodge, No. 15, of Washington, D. C., May 4, 1868, of which lodge he was Senior Warden in 1879, and Worshipful Master in 1880. In 1881 and 1882 he served as Senior Grand Warden, in 1883 as Deputy Grand Master, and in 1884 and 1885 as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia.

In 1891 he was elected an honorary member of Myron M. Parker Lodge, No. 27, which was chartered in that year and which had adopted his name.

He received the Capitular degrees in Columbia R. A. Chapter, No. 1, in



1868, and is a life member thereof. He was knighted in Columbia Commandery, No. 2, K. T., December 7, 1872; served as Standard-Bearer in 1876, as Generalissimo during the first eight months of 1878, and as Acting Commander the remainder of the year. He was elected Eminent Commander for the year 1879, and re-elected for 1880. He also had the honor of serving his commandery for a third term as Eminent Commander during the year 1889, having been recalled by his fraters to take the helm during that momentous year. His terms were red-letter years in the history of Columbia Commandery, having been three of the most brilliant and prosperous it has enjoyed.

In 1887 Bro. Parker was elected Chairman of the Joint Committee, composed of nine (afterwards increased to eleven) Sir Knights from each of the four commanderies, appointed to make arrangements for the entertaining of the Grand Encampment of the United States, and such commanderies as might attend, on the occasion of the Twenty-fourth Triennial Conclave, held in Washington in 1889.

Sir Kt. Parker was the Grand Sword-Bearer of the Grand Encampment, K. T., of the United States, from 1889 till 1892. He is an honorary member of Palestine Commandery, No. 18, of New York; of St. John's Commandery, No. 4, of Philadelphia; of Apollo Commandery, No. 1, of Chicago, and of University Preceptory, Dublin, Ireland. He is also a Scottish Rite Mason of the thirty-second degree.

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## THOMAS P. CHIFFELLE,

GRAND MASTER, 1886.

Bro. Chiffelle was born in Charleston, S. C., December 11, 1816, and lived in that city during his boyhood.

He was appointed to a cadetship at West Point from his native State and graduated from that institution in the class of 1836.

After a few years' service as an officer in the U. S. Army he resigned his commission, began the profession of civil engineering, and took up his residence in Baltimore, Md., and one of his monuments in that city is the Maryland Institute, the cornerstone of which bears his name as architect.

At the outbreak of the Civil War he came to Washington, where he was closely associated with his former classmate, Gen. M. C. Meigs, in engineering work on public constructions under the War Department.

A man of unusual attainments he was a public-spirited and exemplary citizen, a loving husband and father, and altho not a Mason until past the meridian of life was for nearly a quarter of a century an active and valuable member of the Fraternity.

His death occurred April 27, 1891, and his funeral was held under the auspices of the Grand Lodge April 30, on which occasion the services

of the Rose Croix were conducted by the officers of Evangelist Chapter Rose Croix, No. 1, the Templar service by Potomac Commandery, No. 3. The interment was at Arlington and the Blue Lodge service at the grave was rendered by the officers of the Grand Lodge.

Bro. Chiffelle was initiated in Potomac Lodge, No. 5, January 3, 1870; passed April 4, 1870, and raised May 2, 1870; served as Master of his lodge, 1877-79; was J. G. Warden, 1881-82; S. G. Warden, 1883; Deputy Grand Master, 1884-85, and Grand Master, 1886.

He received the Chapter degrees December 5, 1876, and January 23 and February 11, 1877, in Potomac R. A. Chapter, No. 8, and was also a member of Potomac Commandery, No. 3, K. T., of this jurisdiction.

In Scottish Rite Masonry he had attained the thirty-second degree.

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## JOSÉ MARIA YZNAGA,

GRAND MASTER, 1887.

Born January 9, 1840, in the City of Philadelphia, Pa., he was given the name of his father, who was a Cuban. When but three years of age he was taken by his parents to Louisville, Ky., where he grew to manhood. He was educated in private schools and in a college in that city. He served with honor and distinction in the Confederate Army during the Civil War and rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

He came to Washington in 1864, and in 1869 he entered as a student the law school of Columbian (now George Washington) University, from which he graduated in June, 1871, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Laws. He entered at once upon his chosen profession and devoted himself to the practice of patent law, in which he built up a large and lucrative practice, from which he retired about five years before his death. His home was one of the notable old residences near the Capitol, with an imposing stone wall around it rising many feet above the sidewalk.

He was a devoted member of the Masonic Fraternity, and won many honors in its service. He was made a Master Mason in Abraham Lodge, No. 8, Louisville, Ky., July 1, 1861, and affiliated with Pentalpha Lodge, No. 23, of this city, February 2, 1874. He was Master of Pentalpha Lodge in 1878, and its Treasurer during the years 1885 and 1886. He was made Grand Marshal of the Grand Lodge in 1883, and was regularly advanced, serving as Grand Master in 1887.

He received the Capitular degrees in Louisville Chapter, No. 5, of Kentucky, and affiliated February 13, 1874, with Mount Vernon Chapter, No. 3, of this jurisdiction and served as its High Priest in 1878. He entered the official line of this Grand Chapter in December, 1881, as Grand Royal Arch Captain, and in December, 1884, was elected Grand High Priest.

March 27, 1874, he was knighted in Columbia Commandery, No. 2, Knights Templar, of which he was Eminent Commander in 1887. He was also a devoted Mason of the Scottish Rite, the thirty-second degree of that Rite having been conferred on him in Albert Pike Consistory of this city June 2, 1887. He was also a Noble of Almas Temple of the Mystic Shrine.

His earthly labors were terminated and he entered into rest on the 11th day of April, 1909, and two days thereafter his body was consigned to the grave in Rock Creek Cemetery, the funeral service being impressively rendered by the officers of the Grand Lodge.

Bro. Yznaga was a baptized and confirmed member of the Protestant Episcopal Church, having been confirmed in that faith by the Rt. Rev. Alfred Harding, D. D., Bishop of the Diocese of Washington. Although a man of marked intellectual ability he was extremely modest and retiring in his disposition, but impressed every one with whom he came in contact with his splendid personality and his sturdy, unswerving devotion to all his duties as a citizen and a Mason. He was a staunch and charming friend, an uncompromising enemy to anything that would tend to lower the standard of Freemasonry, and an able and conscientious advocate of the highest claims of a clean morality in all personal and professional duties.

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## JESSE WASHINGTON LEE, JR.,

GRAND MASTER, 1888.

Past Grand Master Lee is a native of Maryland, having been born in Harford County of that State, July 9, 1833. At the age of twenty-two he entered the U. S. Navy, from which he was discharged October 8, 1857. At the outbreak of the Civil War he offered his services in defense of the Union, and was mustered November 8, 1861, as 1st Lieutenant and Adjutant of the Baltimore Light Infantry. This organization was subsequently consolidated with the Third Maryland Vols. (Inf.), and he became Captain of Company K of that regiment. With his command he participated in the battle of Cedar Mountain and an engagement at Beverly Ford, Va. He was Deputy Provost Marshal 3d Dist., Baltimore, Md., under Enrollment Act, 1863, 1864, and 1865; Assessor 3d Dist., Baltimore, Md., 1866; General Service, U. S. A., November 22, 1866. Since then he has held a position of trust in the War Department, particularly distinguishing himself during the late Spanish-American War by his successful administration of the extremely arduous duties of his office.

He first saw Masonic light in St. John's Lodge, No. 11, August 27, 1875, and served as its Master in 1879, 1880, and 1882. Exalted in Potomac Chapter, No. 8, R. A. M., November 3, 1875, he became High Priest of that body in 1880. He was knighted in Potomac Commandery No. 3, K. T., July 16, 1884, but upon the formation of Orient Commandery,



*Walter A. Brown*

GRAND MASTER, 1906.



No. 5, became one of its charter members, and served as its Commander in 1897. In the Grand Chapter of R. A. M. of the District he reached the position of Grand Principal Sojourner in 1881, but declined further advancement.

After filling successively the several important subordinate offices in the Grand Lodge he was elected Grand Master in December, 1887.

His administration, covering the year 1888, was a notably successful and prosperous one, and to him fell the honor of laying the cornerstone of the Scottish Rite Cathedral, 1007 G Street, Northwest. Altho he did not enter the Masonic Fraternity until early middle life he quickly became one of its best known, most prominent, and popular members, and rose rapidly to the most important positions in the Order. A natural and recognized leader of men he possesses also the distinction of being one of the most impressive ritualists of the jurisdiction.

In the A. A. S. R. also, many honors have come to him. He was made Perfect Elu February 11, 1888, by Orient Lodge of Perfection, No. 2; Knight Rose Croix, February 24, 1888, by Evangelist Chapter; Kadosh, March 3, 1888, by Robert de Bruce Council, and April 16, 1888, received the thirty-second degree in Albert Pike Consistory. He was Master of Ceremonies in Orient Lodge of Perfection, No. 2, in 1889; First Sub-Preceptor of Robert de Bruce Council of Kadosh for several years, and Orator of Albert Pike Consistory, No. 1, from 1893 to 1895. He was elected a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor by the Supreme Council of the thirty-third degree for the Southern Jurisdiction, U. S. A., October 19, 1897.

Right Worshipful Brother Lee is Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, of the Grand R. A. Chapter of Arizona, and of the Grand Commandery of Alabama, near the corresponding Grand bodies of the District of Columbia.

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## HARRISON DINGMAN,

GRAND MASTER, 1889.

Born in Hudson, N. Y., September 5, 1840, he received a common school education in his native city, and in May, 1861, enlisted for two years in the 14th N. Y. Vol. Inf., and at the battle of Malvern Hill, July 1, 1862, was wounded.

In January, 1867, he was appointed to a clerkship in the Indian Bureau where he is now employed. His tenure of office, however, has not been continuous, as he has been engaged in other pursuits and filled other positions, notably as Supervisor for the District of Columbia in the Census of 1890 and 1900. He was also connected with the first United States Porto Rican Census in 1899, filling the position of Assistant Director.



He has been prominent in the Grand Army of the Republic, filling the office of Department Commander of the Potomac Department, and later was elected Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief of the National Organization, and in the National Encampment, held in this city in 1892, he occupied the very responsible position of Secretary to the Citizens' Committee, which brought him into national reputation in Grand Army circles.

Bro. Dingman has had a most notable Masonic career. He first saw light in Masonry in The New Jerusalem Lodge, No. 9, being raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason August 12, 1880, and serving the lodge as Master in 1884. He was elected Grand Marshal of the Grand Lodge in 1884 and served as Grand Master of Masons in 1889.

He received the Capitular degrees in Columbia Chapter, No. 1, in 1881, and filled the office of High Priest in 1886. After filling various offices in the line of the Grand Chapter he was elected Grand High Priest and filled that position in 1893. In 1890 he served as Thrice Illustrious Master of Washington Council, No. 1.

He received the Orders of Knighthood in Washington Commandery in 1883, and filled the position of Commander in 1891 and 1892. During the two years of his incumbency he conferred the Orders of Knighthood on 115 candidates, and his record has never been equaled in the history of the Commandery. He was elected Grand Standard-Bearer in the Grand Commandery in 1897, and after filling two other offices in the line was elected Grand Commander in May, 1900. At the Triennial Conclave at Saratoga, in 1907, he was appointed Grand Captain of the Guard of the Grand Encampment.

W. Bro. Dingman has not confined his activities to the York Rite in Masonry, but has also been prominently identified with the Scottish Rite. He received the degrees conferred in Mithras Lodge in 1888, and in 1889 received the other degrees including the thirty-second degree in Evangelist Chapter, Robert de Bruce Council, and Albert Pike Consistory. In 1894 he served as Commander of Robert de Bruce Council. He was made Knight Commander, Court of Honor, October, 1897, and on October 23, 1903, received the thirty-third and last degree.

He has devoted a great deal of time and energy in promoting the interests of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He is a member of Almas Temple and served as Potentate during 1893-4-5 and 1896; in 1903 he was elected Recorder, and is still holding that office. In 1896 he was elected Imperial Potentate for North America, and by virtue of filling that position is a delegate *ad vitam* to the Imperial Council.

It will be seen that R. E. Sir Dingman has been highly honored by the Masonic Fraternity, but these honors have been bestowed on him as a fitting reward for a lifetime spent in unselfish devotion to the interests of the Craft. He has filled every position with zeal, fidelity, and conspicuous ability. By his loyalty and genial personality he has attracted to himself a circle of life-long friends, and his name is known in every State and Territory.

## JAMES ANTHONY SAMPLE,

GRAND MASTER, 1890.

Born in South Bend, Ind., October 6, 1844, Bro. Sample received his education in the common schools of that State and Northern Indiana College. In June, 1862, he removed to Washington as an aide in the United States Coast Survey, served later in the Navy Department and the office of the Public Printer, and entered the Treasury Department in May, 1869, where he has continuously remained.

Bro. Sample has, since 1875, served in the United States Treasurer's office, of which is now Assistant Cashier, and in the cash room filled the positions of paying, receiving, change teller, and vault clerk. In 1892 he was made chief of the division of issue, where all of the United States currency issues were sealed, separated, and packed, and where the silver and minor coins sent in for redemption are counted and assorted. He has been frequently intrusted with the examination of sub-treasuries; was sent to London in 1871 with \$10,000,000 coupon bonds for the Jay Cooke, McCulloch & Co. syndicate, and in 1900 was selected by Secretary Gage for the exchange of money of Porto Rico, taking \$3,000,000 in United States currency to the island and shipping back to the United States Mint \$5,000,000 in the Spanish provincial coin.

Bro. Sample is a man of most engaging personality, a clear and logical thinker, an attractive and convincing speaker, and possessed of executive ability of the highest order, an equipment which has been at the service of the Fraternity in the District for nearly four decades, his lively interest and active participation in its affairs having never known abatement since his affiliation here in 1875.

He was for many years an earnest advocate of the proposition to build a new Temple; was prominently identified with every movement in that direction, and soon after the formation of the late Masonic Temple Association became its Treasurer and one of its most valued advisors, and through his trained business ability and indefatigable zeal did much for the success of that enterprise.

Bro. Sample was initiated in South Bend Lodge, No. 294, South Bend, Ind., March 18, 1867; passed March 22, 1867, and raised April 2, 1867; withdrew October 3, 1873; affiliated with San Diego Lodge, No. 35, San Diego, Cal., January 31, 1874; withdrew July 25, 1874; affiliated with B. B. French Lodge, No. 15, of this jurisdiction July 19, 1875; was elected Junior Warden for the year 1881; Senior Warden, 1882, and Worshipful Master, 1883; was elected Junior Grand Warden for 1887, and after passing through the intervening chairs in regular order served as Grand Master for the year 1890. He was elected Grand Treasurer in 1901 and has served continuously as such since that date.

He is also an honorary member of Anacostia Lodge, No. 21, Osiris Lodge, No. 26, and Temple Lodge, No. 32.

He received the Capitular degrees in Washington Chapter, No. 2, R. A. M., and was High Priest thereof in 1897.

He was knighted January 23, 1889, in Washington Commandery, No. 1, K. T., and during the same year received the fourteenth degree in the Scottish Rite.

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## THOMAS F. GIBBS,

GRAND MASTER, 1891.

This Brother was born in Sandwich, Mass., July 14, 1837. In early life he removed to Bridgewater, in his native State, where he received an academic education. October 6, 1864, he enlisted in the 20th Maine Infantry, and shortly afterward was detailed for hospital duty in Washington, D. C., in which service he continued until October 31, 1865, when he was honorably discharged and immediately appointed to a position in the War Department. He graduated from the Medical Department of the Georgetown University of this city in 1870, and practiced his profession for about a year in Providence, Rhode Island. He then returned to Washington and resumed his position in the War Department, and continued in that service the balance of his active life. In July, 1901, while going from Washington to Boston, the steamer encountered a heavy gale and Bro. Gibbs was flung violently from his berth, receiving injuries from which he never recovered, resulting in progressive paralysis and partial blindness.

He was made a Master Mason in Columbia Lodge, No. 3, January 5, 1876; was Junior Warden of said lodge in 1878; Senior Warden in 1879, and Worshipful Master in 1880 and 1883. He was Junior Deacon of the Grand Lodge in 1885, served in each succeeding station in the progressive line, and was Grand Master in 1891. He was also an honorary member of M. M. Parker and Washington Centennial Lodges. In Capitular Masonry, Bro. Gibbs was Grand High Priest in the year 1892. He died January 30, 1906.

For twenty-five years he was a faithful and zealous worker in Symbolic and Capitular Masonry until his active career was terminated by the injury noted above. In manner courteous and genial, in disposition candid and sincere, he was held in great affection by all who knew him. Living for years in the shadow of death, with the knowledge that his summons might come at any moment, he was yet brave and cheerful, and his interest in the Fraternity never failed.

He was, indeed, an ideal Mason and a living practical exponent of the moral tenets of the Fraternity.



*Francis J. Woodman.*

GRAND MASTER, 1907; GRAND HIGH PRIEST, 1909.



## FREDERICK GOODING ALEXANDER,

GRAND MASTER, 1892.

Bro. Alexander was born in Newark, N. J., March 15, 1853, four years after his parents came to this country from England. He moved to Washington in 1862, and was educated in the public schools and Gonzaga College of this city, attending the latter institution three years. Being but a lad during the Civil War he had no military service as a combatant, but during Gen. Early's raid on the Capital City he acted as a drummer boy at Emory Hospital.

For a number of years he has been engaged in the grocery business in this city.

Bro. Alexander has always been an earnest and valued member of the Fraternity, and while circumstances, over which he has had no control, have latterly caused his withdrawal from active participation in Masonic matters, he yet retains a lively interest in all that pertains to the Order and keeps in close touch with his brethren.

Gifted with a commanding presence united with a most affable disposition, possessed of executive ability of a high order and a genius for organization, he quickly came to the front in all his Masonic bodies, fulfilled the trusts reposed in him in a most satisfactory manner, and gathered to himself a host of friends.

He was initiated in Stansbury Lodge, No. 24, of this jurisdiction March 25, 1878; passed April 22, 1878, and raised July 8, 1878. After serving as Junior and Senior Warden of his lodge in 1882 and 1883, respectively, he filled the office of Master for the years 1884, '85, '87, and '88; was S. G. Deacon in 1887; G. Marshal in 1888; J. G. Warden in 1889; S. G. Warden in 1890; D. G. Master in 1891, and Grand Master in 1892. He was elected an honorary member of M. M. Parker Lodge, No. 27, November 6, 1894.

He received the Capitular degrees in Columbia R. A. Chapter, No. 1, during November, 1879; withdrew December 17, 1890, to become a charter member of Brightwood Chapter, No. 9.

He was knighted in DeMolay Mounted Commandery May 22, 1883, and served as its Commander for 1890-91.

Bro. Alexander was among the earliest members of the Fraternity to recognize the value of the Order of the Eastern Star and served as the first Patron of the first Chapter to be instituted here—Ruth Chapter, No. 1, located at Brightwood, D. C.

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LONDON CABELL WILLIAMSON,

GRAND MASTER, 1893.

Born at Charlottesville, Va., October 12, 1853, his early education was by private tutor until he entered the National University where he received his degree in law, was immediately thereafter admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia and later before the U. S. Supreme Court, and since 1874 has been an active and successful



practitioner before the bar of Washington. For a number of years M. W. Bro. Williamson has been active in local church affairs, being identified in his earlier adult life with the First Presbyterian and later with the Assembly Church, in which latter he was twice Superintendent of the Sunday School, an Elder, and the leader of a large Bible class. When the Assembly and North Presbyterian Church united several years ago and formed the Northminster Presbyterian Church, he went into that church and is at present an Elder, Superintendent of its Sabbath School, and teacher of a Bible class. His interest in other lines of religious activity is shown by the fact that he served the local Y. M. C. A. for years as its President.

For more than thirty years he has been an enthusiastic and tireless worker in all branches of Masonry and has given liberally of his time and talents in most efficient work in this field. He was made a Mason in Washington Centennial Lodge, No. 14, of this jurisdiction, receiving the three degrees February 19, March 18, and May 6, 1880, respectively; was Junior Warden in 1884 and Master in 1885-'7; withdrew May 21, 1890, as a charter member of Osiris Lodge, No. 26, serving as its first S. W.; became Junior Grand Warden the same year; S. G. W., 1891; D. G. M., 1892, and Grand Master, 1893.

He received the Capitular degrees in LaFayette R. A. Chapter, No. 5, in October, 1884, entered the Council as Scribe in 1888, was King in 1889, and High Priest the following year.

He was knighted in Columbia Commandery, No. 2, K. T., but dimitted and became a member of Orient, No. 5, in which latter commandery he remains.

In Cryptic Masonry he is on the roll of Washington Council, No. 1, Royal and Select Masters.

He was one of the founders of the Masonic Relief Association of the United States and Canada, was the Secretary of the same for four years, and its President for two years. He is also a past president of the local Masonic Board of Relief. He holds membership in the Masonic Veterans' Association, the Convention of High Priests, and Almas Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S.

He is a thirty-third degree Mason of the A. A. Scottish Rite of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States; is a member of Mithras Lodge, No. 1; a life member of Evangelist Chapter of Rose Croix, Robert De Bruce Council of Kadosh, and Albert Pike Consistory, A. A. S. R., and an honorary member of the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite.

As a member of the Order of the Eastern Star Bro. Williamson has also attained exalted rank. He was the first Patron of Naomi Chapter, No. 3, the first Grand Patron of the District of Columbia, and has held the office of Most Worthy Grand Patron of the General Grand Chapter of the O. E. S.

He is one of the incorporators and directors of the Masonic and Eastern Star Home, and to his untiring interest, activity, and ability the success attained by that Institution is in a large measure due.

## HENRY S. MERRILL,

GRAND MASTER, 1894.

Brother Merrill was born at Plymouth, N. H., May 23, 1843. When about six months old his father removed to Charleston, Mass., and in that place young Merrill resided and received a common school education, until the age of nineteen when, in July, 1862, he enlisted in the 36th Mass. Regt., U. S. Vols., for a period of three years. Two years later he received his discharge from the army to accept a clerkship in the War Department at Washington, and on February 1, 1872, resigned that position to enter the service of the Treasury Department where he has since remained.

Bro. Merrill has for many years taken a lively interest in local Masonic matters and has brought to the discharge of the duties of the many offices he has filled a degree of earnestness and ability which have been alike creditable to himself and the Fraternity. A genial, companionable man he has a host of friends, and still continues to keep in close and helpful touch with all the movements for the advancement of the Fraternity.

Bro. Merrill was initiated in LaFayette Lodge, No. 19, of this jurisdiction, December 16, 1865; passed January 12, 1866, and raised February 1, 1866; served as J. W. in 1874; was Secretary, 1884-87, and again 1892-93, and in the interim, in 1888, filled the East in his lodge.

He became Grand Master in 1894 after having filled the subordinate chairs and in the same year was elected to honorary membership in Washington Centennial Lodge, No. 14.

He received the Capitular degrees in Columbia R. A. Chapter, No. 1, from June 1 to August 8, 1866, and served as High Priest in 1872.

He was knighted in Columbia Commandery, No. 2, K. T., this city, in 1868 and dimitted therefrom in 1888; affiliated with Washington Commandery, No. 1, August 8, 1888, and was Recorder of the latter body from April, 1896, to April, 1909.

He is a fifteenth degree Scottish Rite Mason, unaffiliated.

## DAVID G. DIXON,

GRAND MASTER, 1895.

Bro. Dixon was born in Lawrence County, Pennsylvania, where he was educated in the local district schools and resided until the outbreak of the Civil War, when, in April, 1861, he enlisted, and, August 5, 1861, was mustered into the Union Army and served three years with distinction in Battery "B," 1st Pa. Reserve Light Artillery, being promoted October 10, 1861, to rank of Corporal, and participating in the battles in the seven days' fight before Richmond and Second Bull Run, in which

latter engagement he was severely wounded. Upon receiving his discharge from the military service, June 8, 1864, he came to this city, and accepted a position in the War Department, Surgeon General's Office, and later became Chief Clerk of the Supply Division, which position he held at the time of his death.

Bro. Dixon was noted for his kindness of heart, genial disposition, and careful and painstaking habits, and was one of the most popular and best-beloved members of the Fraternity in the jurisdiction.

He passed away, after a long and painful illness, November 25, and his funeral took place at Rock Creek Cemetery, Sunday, November 28, 1909, under the auspices of the Grand Lodge, M. W. Brother H. K. Simpson officiating, and was attended by large delegations from his lodge, chapter, and commandery, and numerous friends.

He received the Blue Lodge degrees in Lebanon Lodge, No. 7, in this city in the years 1866-67, and after serving in several positions in the lodge, was elected Worshipful Master in 1880, and re-elected in 1881. In 1884 he served as Treasurer and in the election of that year was chosen Secretary of the lodge and filled that position for ten consecutive years.

He received the Capitular degrees in Washington R. A. Chapter, No. 2, in 1880-81, being exalted March 24, 1881, and after filling several of the subordinate offices of the chapter, was elected as its Excellent High Priest in December, 1884, serving for the year 1885. He was chosen Treasurer of the chapter in 1890, and served in that position continuously until the end of his life.

He was knighted in Washington Commandery, No. 1, K. T., in 1882, and subsequently served as Warder, Junior Warden, Senior Warden, Captain General, and Generalissimo, and was elected Eminent Commander in 1893 and served as such for one year.

He was a member of the Masonic Veterans' Association of the District of Columbia.

He was made a member of Almas Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., August 30, 1886.

He was elected and served as President of the Convention of Anointed High Priests in 1894.

In 1886 he was elected an officer in the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, and after filling various offices in the line was elected M. W. G. Master, December, 1894, and served in that position for the succeeding Masonic year.

During his incumbency he officiated at the dedication of the recently erected Hall of Naval Lodge, No. 4, one of the most notable Masonic improvements of recent years.

He was for many years a member of the Fourth Presbyterian Church.

## GEORGE W. BAIRD,

GRAND MASTER, 1896.

For many years Bro. Baird has been prominent and active in Masonic, naval, literary, and social circles. Born in Washington, D. C., in 1843, he received his early education in the private and public schools of this city, and when quite young was apprenticed first to a printer and later to a machinist, at which latter occupation he quickly attained proficiency. A natural draughtsman and ready free-hand sketcher, he prepared detail drawings from which work was gotten out when he was less than twelve years of age. At nineteen he entered the Navy as an Acting Third Assistant Engineer, serving in the West Gulf Blockading Squadron on the "Mississippi," "Calhoun," and "Pensacola," and was under fire twenty-three times during his first year of service. At twenty (the lowest age permitted) he entered the regular Navy, and served through all the grades to that of Chief Engineer. In August, 1895, he was appointed Superintendent of the State, War, and Navy building, was transferred to the Line of the Navy March 3, 1899, promoted to Captain December, 1902, and retired as a Rear Admiral April 22, 1905.

Admiral Baird has been remarkably prolific in inventions for the betterment of conditions in the Navy as well as along other lines. Among them are: A fresh-water distiller, an evaporator, pneumatic tell-tale, steam trap, automatic throttle, boiler feeder, etc. He also invented and worked out, proportioned and wrote up the system of ventilating ships by aspiration which is now universally used in large steamships. He was one of the pioneers in incandescent electric lighting, having installed the first incandescent electric-lighting plant ever used in a government ship of any nation—the "Albatross"—a steamer built under his superintendence and of which he was chief engineer for nearly five years. This vessel being intended exclusively for deep-sea exploring he perfected plans for special machinery for that purpose which proved eminently successful. He was a member of the board which powered the enormous gun shops at Washington, where he introduced the high-speed engines, rope transmission, etc., which are now in use in that plant.

As an essayist on scientific subjects he has attained first rank. Following are a few of his writings: "Absorption of gases by water and the organic matter contained therein," (*Franklin Institute Journal*, Vol. 60, 1870); "An improved distilling apparatus for steamships," (*F. I. J.*, Vol. 64, 1872); "Pneumatic Steering Gear," (*F. I. J.*, Vol. 71); "The Flagship Trenton," (*Naval Institute*, Vols. 4 and 5); "Ventilation of ships," (*N. I.*, Vol. 6, 1880); "Engineering reports from the Albatross," (*G. P. O.*, 1882-3-4-5-6); "Electric lighting on shipboard," (*Science*, Vol. 2, 1883); "Flight of the flying fish," (*Science*, Vols. 8 and 10). In the French Academy it was said: "It remained for an American naval officer to prove by mathematics the flight of this fish."

Bro. Baird is Past President of the American Society of Naval Engineers, a member of the Geographical Society, Sons of American Revo-

lution, Cosmos Club, and Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers. After the reorganization of the public school system in Washington, in 1906, he held the very important position of President of the local Board of Education for several years.

In Masonry Bro. Baird has long been unusually active. He comes of a family of Masons, his father, grandfather, and three uncles on that side being members of the Craft, while on his mother's side tradition has it that every man for eleven generations back was entitled to wear the lambskin apron. He was initiated, passed, and raised in Tolerancia Lodge, No. 4, at Lisbon, Portugal, in July, 1867; affiliated with Naval Lodge, No. 87, in Vallejo, California, in 1870, and affiliated with Hope Lodge, No. 20, of this jurisdiction, in 1875, of which last lodge he became Master in 1883. He was also elected an honorary member of Naval Lodge, No. 4, of Washington, D. C., February 6, 1902. He received the Capitular degrees in Washington R. A. Chapter, No. 2, Washington, D. C., being exalted January 25, 1882, and serving as High Priest of that Chapter during 1890. He was knighted in Washington Commandery, No. 1, in January, 1891. He received the first fourteen degrees of the Scottish Rite in Portugal in 1867; the Rose Croix grade in Evangelist Chapter; the Knight of Kadosh in Robert de Bruce Council, and the Consistory grades in Albert Pike Consistory. He was crowned a thirty-third degree Mason October 26, 1901, in the A. A. S. R., Southern Jurisdiction of the United States.

Since the death of Bro. Singleton Bro. Baird has most ably and acceptably filled the position of Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence.

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## MATTHEW TRIMBLE,

GRAND MASTER, 1897.

To Bro. Trimble's marked executive ability and thoroughgoing business methods may properly be given a large share of the honor of successfully launching the New Masonic Temple enterprise, which developed during his administration from a suggestion of Columbia Commandery, No. 2, K. T.

He has for many years been an exceedingly popular official of the District and brought to the position of Assessor, to which he was appointed March 16, 1890, an intimate knowledge of local affairs which enabled him to discharge the duties of that office with the consummate skill bred of long experience.

He was born March 16, 1842, finished his classical education in 1860 at Kenyon College, Ohio, and for two years thereafter was in charge of the preparatory department of a college located at La Grange, Ky. He received the degrees of A. B. and A. M. in regular course from his Alma Mater. Removing to Washington in 1865, he took up the study of law in



Columbian (George Washington) University, and graduated therefrom in 1867 with the degree of LL. B. The following year he commenced the practice of his profession in Pomeroy, Ohio, in partnership with Judge Lewis Paine, of that place, a distinguished lawyer and an alumnus of Kenyon College, but in 1869 returned to Washington and continued the practice of law until his selection as Assessor, as before stated, which position he held for ten years, when at his own request he was transferred to the Board of Assistant Assessors of Personal Property, which position he now occupies.

During the existence of the District Legislature he was a member of that body, representing the Tenth Legislative District.

While pursuing his studies at Kenyon he became a charter member of Kenyon Chapter of the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity, for which he still retains his early enthusiasm, being at present the President of the Washington Graduate Association of that fraternity. He was also identified with the Nu Pi Kappa Literary Society and early developed a reputation as an orator, a reputation which later years has broadened and strengthened to an enviable extent. He is a charter member of the University Club of this city, and of the national Geographic Society, the Churchman's League of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and the Oldest Inhabitants' Association, and Vice-President of the Masonic Temple Association. In religion he is an Episcopalian, and since his residence in Washington has been a member and communicant in St. John's P. E. Church, Sixteenth and H Streets, Northwest, being for many years a vestryman of said church and its registrar.

In Masonry Bro. Trimble has for many years been actively interested. He received the Blue Lodge degrees in B. B. French Lodge, No. 15, in 1867, having been entered January 21, passed February 18, and raised March 23, of that year. He affiliated with Pentalfa Lodge, No. 23, May 5, 1880, and served as its Master in 1883, withdrawing therefrom in 1907 to become a charter member of Temple Lodge, No. 32. He received the Capitular degrees in Washington Royal Arch Chapter, No. 2, in 1868, and became High Priest in 1877. He received the Orders of Knighthood in Columbia Commandery, No. 2, April 5, 1868; the same year dimitted from Columbia Commandery and organized Ohio Valley Commandery at Pomeroy, Ohio, and was elected its first Eminent Commander under the charter. On February 4, 1876, he affiliated with Columbia Commandery.

After filling a number of the subordinate Grand Lodge offices he was elected Grand Master for the year 1897.

December 11, 1878, he was elected and installed Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the District of Columbia and served in that capacity for two successive years.

He is Past President of the Convention of Anointed High Priests. In the A. A. S. R. he has attained the thirty-second degree and been elected Knight Commander, Court of Honor, and Past Wise Master of the Rose Croix Chapter. He is also a member of Almas Temple A. A. O. N. M. S.



## SAMUEL CLAXTON PALMER,

GRAND MASTER, 1898.

The subject of this sketch has spent his entire life in Georgetown, D. C., where he was born in October, 1839. His education was obtained in the schools of that city, but at an early age he engaged in mercantile pursuits, being employed by John Trunnell, in the grocery business, from 1850 to 1854; by Knowles & Johnson, in the ship chandlery business, from 1854 to 1861, and by Riley A. Shinn, in the bottling business, from 1861 to 1863. In 1863, with a partner by the name of Green, he succeeded Shinn in this business, but shortly after acquired the entire interest in the business which he has ever since conducted in his own name.

While an active, progressive business man and citizen, Bro. Palmer has never held any public office, but for many years has held an enviable place in the hearts of his fellow townsmen and has always been foremost in every movement for municipal betterment or private philanthropy.

Altho of a retiring disposition he is lovable to a degree, and is one of the best known and most highly respected men in West Washington.

Among his business activities may be mentioned his service as a director of the Farmers and Mechanics' National Bank since 1894.

Bro. Palmer's interest and activity in Masonry covers a period of more than forty years, and has been of the greatest value not only to the subordinate bodies with which he was affiliated, but to the Craft in general, his administration of the affairs of the Grand Lodge during his term as Grand Master being marked by the same ability and business acumen which brought success to him in his private affairs.

He was initiated in The New Jerusalem Lodge, No. 9, February 18, 1867; passed March 28, 1867; raised May 2, 1867, and withdrew December 28, 1868, to become a charter member of George C. Whiting Lodge, No. 22; was Senior Warden, 1870-71; Worshipful Master, 1872-73, and Treasurer, 1874 to 1897, and 1900 to 1902. After service through the progressive line of the Grand Lodge he ascended the Grand East for the year 1898.

He received the Capitular degrees in Potomac Chapter, No. 8, R. A. M., June 13, September 12, and October 10, 1871.

He was knighted in Columbia Commandery, No. 2, K. T., November 6, 1874, and remains a member at this time.

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JOHN HENRY SMALL, JR.,

GRAND MASTER, 1899.

Brother Small was born September 2, 1855, in this city, where he has always resided, and received his education in the local public schools and the Spencerian Business College. Soon after his graduation from the College he became associated with his father in the florist business. The firm of J. H. Small & Sons (composed of father and two sons) has long



PROPOSED MASONIC AND EASTERN STAR HOME.



held a prominent place among American florists, having extended its business eighteen years ago, by opening a branch in New York City, where its reputation as artist decorators has become as extensive as in Washington.

Bro. Small has been for a number of years a prominent figure in the local business world, being connected with a number of financial institutions, and was President of the Washington Board of Trade in 1909.

He is a man of unusually forceful character and possessed of an ideal business temperament; energetic, quick to grasp a situation, to foresee results, and to arrive at decision, yet withal safely conservative. Clear-minded and resourceful, straightforward, honorable, and upright, his leadership in the larger enterprises of the local Fraternity has always been marked by success, while his genial, courteous disposition toward all mankind has drawn to him a host of friends and admirers.

His greatest achievement, perhaps, in the Masonic field has been the building of the new Masonic Temple, with which, not only by reason of his executive connection with that enterprise, but also by his tireless personal efforts, his name will always be linked.

When, in 1897, upon the suggestion and invitation of Columbia Commandery, representatives of all the local Masonic bodies assembled for the purpose of considering the project of a new Masonic Temple, Bro. Small was made Chairman of the General Committee and of the Executive Committee, which it created. Later, when it was determined to give a Masonic Fair, he was made President of the Board of Control, and to his splendid organizing ability, energy, and zeal, was largely due the success of that great enterprise.

When the Masonic Temple Association was organized he was elected Vice-President, and subsequently when the late Bro. R. B. Donaldson, Past Grand Master, declined a re-election, Bro. Small was chosen President, which most important position he held from January, 1899, until October 17, 1910.

Bro. Small was initiated an Entered Apprentice Mason October 16, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft November 20, and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason December 18, in the year 1879, in Washington Centennial Lodge, No. 14. He served as Senior Deacon in 1880, as Junior Warden in '81, as Senior Warden in '90, and as Worshipful Master in '91 and in '92. In the Grand Lodge he was Junior Grand Steward in '92, Junior Grand Deacon in '93, Senior Grand Deacon in '94, Grand Marshal in '95, Junior Grand Warden in '96, Senior Grand Warden in '97, Deputy Grand Master in '98, and Grand Master in 1899. He is also an honorary member of Acacia Lodge, No. 18, and Hope Lodge, No. 20.

He received the Capitular degrees in LaFayette R. A. Chapter, No. 5, in 1880: Mark Master, February 3; Past Master, March 2; Most Excellent Master, March 30, and Royal Arch, April 13; has been honored by his companions by election to the various chairs of office, and served with distinction as High Priest in 1897.

He was knighted in Columbia Commandery May 7, 1880, served as Guard in '92, as Standard-Bearer in '93, as Senior Warden in '94 and '95,

as Captain-General in '96, as Generalissimo in '97, as Commander in '98, and has been elected a life member. He is at present Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Grand Commandery, K. T., D. C.

He is also a member of Washington Council, No. 1, Royal and Select Masters; a life member of each of the Scottish Rite bodies of the Southern jurisdiction, having attained to the 33° (honorary); a member of Almas Temple, A. A. O. Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, and of Naomi Chapter, No. 3, Order of the Eastern Star.

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## WILLIAM GEORGE HENDERSON,

GRAND MASTER, 1900.

Born in Washington, D. C., October 15, 1852, he received his education in various private schools, including the preparatory school of Columbian College. Receiving an appointment as clerk in the office of the Inspector of Building Materials for the Treasury Department's Extension he remained there until he secured a better appointment in the Agricultural Department, leaving this in 1868 to accept a clerkship in the U. S. Patent Office, where he was for a number of years a member of the examining corps, until 1874, when he resigned. At this time he received the degree of Bachelor of Law from Columbian Law School, graduating with the class of 1874, and was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia.

For two years after beginning the general practice of law Bro. Henderson had his office with the late Walter D. Davidge. Subsequently he concluded to make a specialty of patent cases before the Federal courts. On the motion of Mr. Davidge he was admitted to the bar of the U. S. Supreme Court May 10, 1880.

Bro. Henderson is also identified with interests outside the pale of his profession, among them the Washington Board of Trade, in which he was for six years a member of the Board of Directors and is at present Chairman of the important Committee on Streets and Avenues. He was one of the organizers, and for a number of years the President of the North Capitol and Eckington Citizens' Association, organized in 1896, and at present is a member *ex officio* of the Executive Committee of that Association and Chairman of its Committee on Street Railways.

Bro. Henderson has a large and lucrative practice in patent and trademark cases both in the District of Columbia and before the U. S. Circuit Courts throughout the States where litigation is in progress.

Of pleasing presence and courteous demeanor he rejoices in a host of friends, while his judicial training and analytical mind has won for him high rank in the councils of his fellows in all his public and semi-public associations. A close and logical reasoner and a convincing, forceful speaker Bro. Henderson has been a most valuable member of the Masonic

Fraternity, to which he has devoted his talents for many years, and in which he has received the highest honors.

He was initiated in The New Jerusalem Lodge, No. 9, August 13, 1874; passed September 10, 1874, and raised October 22, 1874; was Worshipful Master thereof in 1880, and after serving in various subordinate chairs was Grand Master in 1900. In 1903 he was Chairman of the Committee on Revision of the Grand Lodge Constitution and at present is Chairman of the Committee on Jurisprudence of the Grand Lodge.

He received the Capitular degree in Columbia Chapter, No. 1, R. A. M., in 1875, and filled the offices of Scribe and King in 1881 and 1882, respectively.

He was knighted in Washington Commandery, No. 1, K. T., May 13, 1876, and received the Order of Malta February 28, 1877.

He is a member of Mithras Lodge of Perfection, No. 1, A. A. S. R., Southern jurisdiction, having received the fourteenth degree on December 5, 1899.

For a number of years Bro. Henderson served as the representative of his lodge on the Masonic Board of Relief, and at one time was President of that Board.

He has also represented his lodge in the New Masonic Temple Association.

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## HARRY STANDIFORD,

GRAND MASTER, 1901.

Bro. Standiford was born in Alexandria, Va., May 23, 1858. He graduated from St. John's Academy, Alexandria, in 1874, and two years later came to Washington and engaged in the profession of pharmacy, graduating at the National College of Pharmacy in 1879. In 1883 he became the proprietor of a drug store at the southwest corner of Ninth and F Streets, N. W., and built up a large business, which continued until 1889, when he was obliged to vacate the premises on account of the demolition of the building. He then removed to another stand on F Street, between Ninth and Tenth Streets, and continued in the drug business until 1892, when he established a wholesale cigar business, in which he is engaged at the present time.

M. W. Bro. Standiford was made a Mason in St. John's Lodge, No. 11, receiving the Master Mason's degree January 25, 1884. His aptitude for Masonic work soon led to his appointment to a place in the official line, and to his election, after filling several subordinate stations, to the office of Worshipful Master for the year 1890.

He received the Royal Arch degree in Washington Chapter, No. 2, October 31, 1884, and was High Priest of the Chapter for the year 1895.

He was knighted in Washington Commandery, No. 1, K. T., August 23, 1886.

He became a member of Mithras Lodge of Perfection, A. A. S. R., June 19, 1889, and of Evangelist Chapter Rose Croix, February 26, 1899.



He was initiated in Almas Temple, Order of the Mystic Shrine, January 20, 1887, and has been an active member of that organization, serving as Illustrious Potentate in 1897 and 1898, and as representative in the Imperial Council for six years.

At the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of 1890, before he had retired from the chair of his lodge, he was elected Junior Grand Steward, and entered upon an official career which is probably without parallel in the history of the Grand Lodge. From December 27, 1890, when he took up the rod of the Junior Grand Steward, until December 27, 1901, when he laid down the gavel of the Grand Master, he was continuously in office, and served a full term in every station in the progressive line.

He was appointed Grand Master of the First Vail in the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the District of Columbia December 11, 1895, and after serving in all but two of the succeeding stations in the progressive line, on December 11, 1901, he was elected and installed Grand High Priest for an extended term which ended in February, 1903, the time of holding the Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter having been changed from December to February. From December 11 to December 27, 1901, he held the offices of both Grand Master and Grand High Priest.

As Grand Master his investigation of every question was thorough, and when his decision was entered no matter of law or fact had been overlooked. With a high sense of what was due to the dignity and well-being of the Fraternity, he addressed himself to the correction of irregularities, some of which had existed long enough to receive the sanction of ancient usage, and hesitated not to censure where censure was deserved. While maintaining our right of jurisdiction over profanes residing in the District of Columbia, but exercising the right of suffrage in the States, he jealously guarded the rights of another jurisdiction which had been unwittingly invaded by one of our lodges. He rebuked the violation of Masonic confidence, upheld the right of the Fraternity to a careful investigation of the character of applicants, criticised laxity in many details of administration, and commanded orderly procedure in the dispatch of business. Under his administration the financial affairs of the Grand Lodge were placed on a business basis. Tactful as well as forceful, his genial personality disarmed the resentment which some of his official acts might have excited, and his unflinching courtesy won for him the love of all his brethren.

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### MALCOLM SEATON,

GRAND MASTER, 1902.

This Brother, the son of the late William Winston Seaton, Grand Master during the years 1821, 22, and 24, was born in Washington City, District of Columbia, May 12, 1829. He received his education in the private schools of the city of his birth, with the exception of the time he was a



*W. H. Hoar*

GRAND MASTER, 1908; GRAND HIGH PRIEST, 1904.



pupil in Benjamin Hallowell's school of Alexandria, Va., and a student at Capt. Kingsley's military school on the Hudson River near West Point.

In 1848 he was appointed an aid in the United States Coast Survey, the distinguished scientist, Prof. Alexander Dallas Bache, at that time being its superintendent. In 1850 he resigned to accept the position of Assistant Engineer in the Boundary Commission to run the line between the United States and Mexico, under the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, and served in that capacity until the last stake was driven at the mouth of the Rio Grande in 1853, having in the meantime worked upon the line from New Mexico to California, returning across the country to El Paso, and thence down through Mexico to Camargo on the Rio Grande.

In 1853 he was reappointed as assistant in the Coast Survey, but his health failing from exposure to the swamps in Louisiana and Texas, he accepted a position October 26, 1860, in the clerical force of the United States Census, which position he held until the work on the Census was finished in July, 1866, when he was transferred to the U. S. Patent Office, his commission bearing date August 1, 1866. In this office he advanced through the several grades of assistant examiners, and in July, 1880, was appointed chief clerk of the bureau, and on October 1, 1882, was promoted to the grade of principal examiner, which position he held during the remainder of his life.

Bro. Seaton was made a Master Mason November 7, 1867, in Columbia Lodge, No. 3, of this jurisdiction, and on removing his residence to Georgetown, D. C. (now West Washington), he affiliated with Potomac Lodge, No. 5, of that city. He was elected Senior Warden of that lodge in 1889, and in 1890 was elected its Worshipful Master. In 1892 he was elected Junior Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge, and successively passed through the several chairs, and was elected December 4 and installed December 27, 1901, as M. W. Grand Master. This position he filled with signal ability, dignity, and grace. He exacted a strict adherence to constitutional provisions, the ancient landmarks, customs, and usages, and observance of fraternal courtesies; his dignified and courtly bearing always commanded respect and deference; his suavity of manner made it always a pleasure to approach him and be in his society, and his choice of language and grace of expression always insured him an attentive audience.

Bro. Seaton was also a member of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States, in which he had taken eighteen degrees. He was a member of Orient Lodge of Perfection, No. 2, until it surrendered its charter in December, 1902, and was later a member of Mithras Lodge of Perfection, No. 1, and also of Evangelist Chapter Rose Croix, A. A. S. R., located in the city of Washington.

The latter years of his life were years of suffering, which culminated in his death September 6, 1904, at Marblehead, Mass., whither he had gone but a short time before in the hope that the change might prove beneficial.

## GEORGE HAROLD WALKER,

GRAND MASTER, 1903.

Born in Pontypool, Monmouthshire, England, November 27, 1851, he came to this country in 1857, and after spending a year in Northern New York removed to Milwaukee, Wis., where his early education was obtained in the public schools and in printing and newspaper offices. In 1865, he removed to Cleveland, Ohio, where he was employed as printer and reporter by the *Cleveland Leader* until 1873, when he entered Cornell University, working in a printing office at Ithaca to help pay his way at college. Returning to the *Cleveland Leader*, he was engaged as an editorial writer until 1880, when he was employed by the *Cleveland Herald*, coming to Washington as the representative of that journal in 1881. He soon returned to the *Leader*, which he represented at Washington until 1891, serving also for several years as correspondent of the *San Francisco Chronicle*. In 1887 he became a member of the celebrated Gridiron Club, which he served as treasurer for many years. During his long and successful career as a newspaper man he was brought into contact with many distinguished public men, notably Presidents Garfield and McKinley, with whom he was in close confidential relations.

Graduating from the law department of the Columbian University, in 1893 he abandoned journalism for the legal profession, and entered upon practice in this city, in which he continued until 1897, when he was appointed by President McKinley an Assistant Attorney of the Department of Justice, in which honorable position he remained until his death.

M. W. Bro. Walker was made a Master Mason in Hiram Lodge, No. 10, November 17, 1882, from which time his progress in the Fraternity was steadily upward. He was exalted in Mount Horeb Chapter, No. 7, R. A. M., March 1, 1883; greeted in Washington Council, No. 1, R. & S. M., January 31, 1888; knighted in Washington Commandery, No. 1, April 25, 1883; received the degrees of the Scottish Rite in Mithras Lodge of Perfection, Evangelist Chapter, Rose Croix, Robert de Bruce Council of Kadosh, and Albert Pike Consistory in 1889; and the thirty-third degree (honorary) in the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction, October 22, 1897.

He was Worshipful Master of Hiram Lodge in 1888; High Priest of Mount Horeb Chapter in 1886; Thrice Illustrious Master of Washington Council in 1895; Commander of Washington Commandery in 1896; and Wise Master of Evangelist Chapter, Rose Croix, in 1896.

M. W. Bro. Walker was also an active worker in the Order of the Mystic Shrine, being one of the founders of Almas Temple, of this city, in December, 1885, and serving that body four years as Illustrious Potentate and eleven years as Recorder. For many years he was a representative of Almas Temple in the Imperial Council for North America, and in 1894, as Chairman of the Committee on Revision of Ritual, he submitted a revision, largely his own work, which was adopted, and is now the ritual in use throughout North America.

In the Masonic Grand Bodies of the District of Columbia M. W. Bro. Walker filled numerous official stations and rendered conspicuous service. He was Grand Master of Masons of the District of Columbia in 1903; Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in 1894; and at the time of his death held the office of Grand Generalissimo in the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar.

Honors came to M. W. Bro. Walker as a just reward for his great usefulness to the Fraternity, and not of his own seeking. William of Orange said of Godolphin that he was "never in the way and never out of the way," and this could be said with equal truth of our beloved Brother. Modest and unobtrusive, content to follow when it was not for him to lead, he was ever dependable, and his time and means and the resources of his trained and well-balanced mind were freely given to the service of all branches of Masonry. Of genial and kindly disposition, and full of love for his fellow men, he abhorred piques and quarrels, and his influence always made for harmony and conservatism. He was a courteous and dignified presiding officer, an engaging speaker, and an accomplished writer. High on the roll of those who have served the Fraternity with ability and distinction, his name will be written among the noblest of Masons and the truest of men.

He passed away May 5, 1906.

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## JAMES A. WETMORE,

GRAND MASTER, 1904.

Brother Wetmore was born at Bath, Steuben County, New York, November 10, 1863. At the age of seven years he was taken by his parents to Iowa, but after a sojourn there of a few years they returned with him to their former home in the Empire State, which thereafter became the home of the subject of this sketch. His early education was obtained in the public schools of Iowa and of New York, supplemented by private instruction in modern languages and certain of the arts. Completing his academic education at the age of eighteen, he began the study of law in his father's office, and was inducted regularly into a knowledge of those things which the student of law must know. Bro. Wetmore had unusual advantages in this particular, for his father was one of the leading practitioners at the bar of Western New York.

Bro. Wetmore realizing the value to be derived from knowledge of an art in which so many men have found the best opportunities of life, made himself so proficient as a writer of shorthand that he was appointed stenographic reporter of the county court of his county.

His ability was recognized by those with whom he came in contact, and before he had attained his majority many excellent openings for future success were presented to him. He was induced to relinquish his



position as court reporter to accept a commercial position with a firm of importers of cattle, horses, and nursery stock, and a year or two later, acting for a prominent New York State banker, successfully executed a most difficult commission in Europe in purchasing and shipping 100 head of selected cattle to this country. After a year in this business he resigned and engaged in law and newspaper reporting and opened an office for general stenographic work. Among other important duties in which he was engaged during this period was that of reporting the testimony in an investigation into the subject of child labor in factories, conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the State of New York.

In 1885 he was appointed to a clerkship in the Treasury Department and came to Washington to live. Here he resumed his legal studies in the law department of Georgetown University and was graduated in 1896 with the degree of LL. B., and upon his admission to the bar of the District of Columbia was promoted to be chief of the law and records division in the office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, which important position he still holds.

For a number of years prior to his appointment to his present position he was a clerk in the office of the chief clerk of the Treasury Department, and because of his knowledge of the work of that office, in its relation to the department, he was designated by the Secretary of the Treasury to act as chief clerk in the absence of that official, and so served during a large part of the years 1893, 1894, 1895, and 1896, a responsibility rarely, if ever before, placed upon a person holding an appointment of a lesser grade than that of chief of a division in the Secretary's office.

Bro. Wetmore began his career in Masonry in Evening Star Lodge, No. 44, at Hornellsville, N. Y., in which he was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on August 28, 1888, and at the request of that lodge he received the degrees of Fellow Craft and Master Mason in Benjamin B. French Lodge, No. 15, of this jurisdiction. He affiliated with the latter lodge on March 17, 1890. He served Benjamin B. French Lodge as Senior Steward, Senior Deacon, and Senior Warden, and in December, 1893, was elected Master, and served one year. He was elected Junior Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge in 1895, and served in all but two of the offices in the line of that body, being finally elected Grand Master and serving in that exalted office for the year ending December 27, 1904.

He received the several degrees of Capitular Masonry in Columbia Royal Arch Chapter, No. 1, and was an officer in the line of that Chapter, when he resigned his position to help organize Capitol Royal Arch Chapter, No. 11, of which he is a charter member, and of which he became King at the granting of its charter. He served as High Priest during the year 1899.

Bro. Wetmore is also a member of Adoniram Council, No. 2, Royal and Select Masters, having dimitted from Washington Council, No. 1, in which he received the cryptic degrees; is a Past President of the Convention of Anointed High Priests of the District of Columbia; was knighted in Columbia Commandery, No. 2, K. T., of which he is a member, on May 3, 1895; received the fourteenth degree of the Scottish Rite,



*Harvey H. Simpson*

GRAND MASTER, 1909; GRAND HIGH PRIEST, 1905.



and is a member of Mithras Lodge of Perfection, No. 1, and is a member of Almas Temple of the Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

He is one of the Trustees of the Grand Lodge and among his important committee assignments may be mentioned his service on the Jurisprudence Committee of the Grand Lodge since 1905 and his Chairmanship of the Committee on By-laws of the Grand Chapter.

In Masonry, as in everything else, Bro. Wetmore has shown marked ability, and his promotion to the greatest honor conferred by the Craft was comparatively rapid. The confidence reposed in him by his brethren was well deserved, for he always proved, as they believed he would, careful, conservative, and conscientious in the performance of every duty. When convinced of the righteousness of any course he essayed, nothing could move him to abandon it. Firmness and fortitude are conspicuous traits in his character. Fond of books, his addresses in public and among the Craft gave evidence of much reading and broad culture. Modest and pleasing in demeanor, ever affable and courteous in manner, he is deservedly popular in a large circle of brethren and friends. In all the relations of life, in the domestic circle, in the outer world as well as in Masonry, devotion to duty has characterized the career of our Brother. This has doubtless been the keynote of his success.

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## LURTIN RUFUS GINN,

GRAND MASTER, 1905.

Bro. Ginn was born near Mechanicsburg, Henry County, Indiana, November 11, 1860, and assumed the office of Grand Master when but forty-four years of age, one of the youngest brethren ever elected to this very important Masonic office.

His early education was obtained in the public schools of his native State. After completing his school career he entered the Central Normal College, located at Danville, Indiana, graduating in the classic course of that institution in 1882. Shortly afterward, while teaching in the district schools of Indiana, he took up the study of law, intending to enter that profession, but receiving an appointment to a clerkship in the Treasury Department he removed from Indiana to this city. After locating here he resolved to continue his legal education, and entering the National University Law School, graduated in 1888.

He was appointed law clerk in the office of the Comptroller of the Treasury, July 1, 1901, which position he now holds. His high character and talents and his fidelity and efficiency in the administration of his important office have won for him the confidence of the authorities of the department and the esteem and friendship of many persons prominent in official circles with whom he is brought in contact.

Bro. Ginn was raised to the degree of Master Mason in Harmony Lodge, No. 17, April 14, 1887. His capabilities were at once recognized

by the brethren of the lodge and he was immediately placed in the official line. Perhaps the greatest efforts of his Masonic career were put forth during the period when he was a junior officer of this lodge, which at that time, by the infusion of young blood, was entering upon the career of phenomenal growth which has since distinguished it. Here he was indefatigable in his devotion, carrying the welfare of the lodge into his daily life and devoting nearly every moment of his unoccupied time to the upbuilding of the Masonic organization, thereby ably assisting in promoting the impetus which the lodge secured at that time. In 1890 he was elected Master, serving for the year 1891, and becoming a permanent member of the Grand Lodge. November 11, 1896, he was elected Grand Pursuivant of the Grand Lodge, thus beginning an official career which ended December 27, 1905, as Grand Master of Masons of this jurisdiction; a career crowned with high honor and great distinction.

The close of his official life witnessed no abatement, however, in his active interest and participation in Fraternity matters, and the years that have since elapsed have been full of valuable service to the jurisdiction. One instance of special importance that may be cited covers his connection with the transfer of control of the New Masonic Temple to the Grand Lodge, a movement initiated by the Masonic Temple Association. Acting upon the invitation of the latter body the then Grand Master, A. B. Coolidge, in December, 1908, appointed Bro. Ginn Chairman of the Committee of the Grand Lodge to consider ways and means looking to the taking over of the Temple by the Grand Lodge. This Committee made its report, which was unanimously adopted, without change, and an amendment to the grand constitution inserted providing for a Committee on Masonic Temple to be the proxy of the Grand Lodge at all meetings of the Temple Association. At the request of Grand Master George C. Ober Bro. Ginn accepted and is now filling the position of Chairman of this Committee.

When the present Masonic Board of Relief of the District of Columbia was organized in 1887 Bro. Ginn was appointed a delegate representing his lodge. In 1892 he was elected Secretary of the Board, to which office he was annually re-elected, declining further service in 1904. January 4, 1906, immediately after retiring from the office of Grand Master, Bro. Ginn was elected President of the Board.

To his individual efforts may be largely assigned the success of the local Board of Relief, not only in the proper care of the indigent brethren whom unfortunate circumstances have forced to ask charity at the hands of the Masons of this city, but in protecting the treasuries of the lodges of this jurisdiction against the impostor and the unworthy. The reputation of the local board is second to none in the country, and the colleagues of Bro. Ginn on the Board are unanimous in testifying that to his intimate connection with and knowledge of its affairs this reputation is in some measure due. The Masonic "hobo" gives the District of Columbia a wide berth, while the unfortunate but worthy Brother does not apply for succor in vain.

For many years Bro. Ginn has attended as delegate from this juris-

diction the biennial sessions of the Masonic Relief Association of the United States and Canada. September 28, 1905, at the session held at Syracuse, New York, he was elected Second Vice-President, having previously served as Chairman of the Advisory Board, and after serving as First Vice-President was elected to the Presidency of the Association in 1909.

While active in Blue Lodge Masonry, Bro. Ginn has identified himself with the Chapter, Commandery, Scottish Rite, and Shrine. He was exalted in Mount Vernon Chapter, No. 3, R. A. M., October 31, 1887, and was its High Priest during the year 1895. He was knighted in Columbia Commandery, No. 2, K. T., October 16, 1891. He received the fourteenth degree in Mithras Lodge of Perfection, A. A. S. R., January 16, 1890, the Order of High Priesthood March 31, 1904, and in the memorable class of May 29, 1893, he traveled the "hot sands of the desert" under the auspices and guidance of Almas Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S.

Past Grand Master Ginn's popularity has been evinced by his practically unanimous election to every Masonic office he has held. Personally he is approachable, with a most engaging manner, and while serving as Grand Master he made it a rule to be at all times accessible to any Mason of the jurisdiction, whether an official or of the rank and file, who desired consultation or advice. Recognizing the responsibilities of the Grand Master he devoted himself to the study of the Grand Lodge Constitution, the ancient usages and customs of the Craft, and the deep, underlying principles upon which Masonry is founded, thereby equipping himself so thoroughly that his decisions as Grand Master were in every instance approved by the Grand Lodge and now have the force and effect of law.

He is strong in the love of his brethren because of the pure purposes and high ideals of his own life and of his forceful, earnest endeavors to measure his own conduct on the lines of a truly Masonic conception of his reciprocal duties to mankind. Considerate and sympathetic to those who are in trouble, kind and genial in his every-day life, and more than brotherly to those who approach him Masonically, his character is only to be measured on the broadest gauge of sterling manhood and the highest plane of integrity.

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### WALTER A. BROWN,

GRAND MASTER, 1906.

Bro. Brown is a native of the District of Columbia, having been born in the City of Washington November 25, 1866, and therefore had just passed the thirty-ninth anniversary of his birth when called upon to assume the responsible and exacting duties pertaining to the office of Grand Master of Masons, being one of the youngest men to fill that station in the history of the jurisdiction.

He received his education in the schools of the District of Columbia, and at Swarthmore College, in Pennsylvania, at which latter institution



he was chosen president of his class, and also intrusted with the business management of the two magazines published by the students. The successful manner in which he handled the duties of that position gave early indication of his aptitude for affairs and grasp of details that were later to characterize his whole business career.

Upon leaving college he returned to Washington, and there found employment in insurance and real estate offices, where he acquired such a proficiency in all the essentials of the work as to qualify him to go into those lines of business on his own account, which he did in 1891. In this venture he has been successful, and he feels that the best endorsement of his methods and abilities is to be found in the fact that he counts among his clients and business friends today many who intrusted the management of their properties to him when he started in business. He has been a director of one of our most prominent banks, of trust companies, and other corporations, as well as a member of the Chamber of Commerce and for many years a director of the Washington Board of Trade.

The Masonic career of Bro. Brown has been one of exceptional activity. He was initiated November 26, 1889, in Federal Lodge, No. 1, passed December 24, 1889, and raised January 28, 1890. At the first election occurring in his lodge thereafter he was chosen Senior Steward, and once having entered the line was regularly advanced, serving as Junior Warden in 1894, Senior Warden in 1895, and Worshipful Master in 1896. His successor had not yet been installed as Master of the lodge when he was elected Senior Grand Steward in the Grand Lodge. He was regularly advanced in the Grand Lodge to the various stations and places, and was elected Grand Master on the evening of St. John's Day, December 27, 1905. Thus during the seventeen years of his Masonic existence he served his brethren actively and continuously, as an officer in his lodge and in Grand Lodge, for sixteen years—a distinction both rare and well deserved.

Because of the exceptional conditions which prevailed in Washington during the Civil War all the Masonic bodies in the District of Columbia experienced a period of unexampled prosperity, and the annual gains then made, numerically and financially, have rarely, if ever, been equaled during any particular year since by any of those bodies. It is, therefore, a matter of pride with Bro. Brown that the year 1896, when he was Worshipful Master of Federal Lodge, No. 1, was the most prosperous of any in its existence since the war.

Bro. Brown was exalted in Columbia Chapter, No. 1, R. A. M., April 22, 1891, and knighted in Washington Commandery, No. 1, K. T., February 17, 1892. He is a member of Mithras Lodge of Perfection, No. 1, A. A. S. R., and of Almas Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S.

He has been President of St. John's Mite Association since 1904, when the position became vacant through the resignation of Past Grand Master Robert B. Donaldson, who had held it for many years.

No Grand Master in this jurisdiction ever held the scales of justice in more equal poise, or showed a keener appreciation of the efforts of the officers of the constituent lodges. While it gave him pleasure to recognize



*G. L. L. L. L.*

GRAND MASTER, 1910; GRAND HIGH PRIEST, 1903;  
GRAND COMMANDER, 1910.



merit and ability and to bestow praise and words of encouragement where due, he did not shirk the duty of giving timely admonition to the lodges when conditions seemed to require it, and he knew how to do this in a way to effect his purpose without leaving any feeling of humiliation on the part of the brethren.

While kind, considerate, courteous, unassuming, and democratic to a degree, his dignity and poise in the discharge of his duties reflected the veneration in which he held the high office to which he had been chosen, and won the respect and esteem of his brethren.

Bro. Brown was called upon during the year to preside at a number of public functions, among the more important of which were the dedication of the completed wing of the Masonic and Eastern Star Home and the laying of the cornerstone of the Office Building of the House of Representatives. On the latter occasion our ceremonies—handed down from time immemorial and of deep significance to us—were performed in the presence of the Chief Executive of the Nation, the representatives of our own and foreign governments, and a vast concourse of spectators. On this occasion the President delivered an address on "The Man With the Muck Rake." It is believed that Bro. Brown cherishes no souvenir of his year's service as Grand Master more highly than the bound copy of that address, presented to him by the President, and bearing on the fly leaf, in the President's own handwriting, the inscription: "To Walter A. Brown, Esq., Grand Master of Masons, from Bro. Theodore Roosevelt."

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## FRANCIS JOSEPH WOODMAN,

GRAND MASTER, 1907.

W. Bro. Woodman is a native and a citizen of the Granite State, tho he has resided in the District nearly thirty years. Born in Somersworth, New Hampshire, August 7, 1851, his early life was spent in that city, where he passed through the graded schools. At the age of nineteen he entered Phillips Academy at Exeter, N. H., from which he graduated in 1872. In the fall of the same year he matriculated in the academic department of Yale University, and during his course at "Old Eli" he joined the D. K. E. fraternity and the famous Yale Glee Club, of which he was the baritone soloist in his junior and senior years. Graduating in 1876, he returned to his native city and engaged in the management of *The Free Press*, a weekly newspaper conducted in connection with an extensive printing business. In 1879 he obtained, through a competitive examination, an appointment to a clerkship in the Pension Office, and two years later entered the Columbian (now George Washington) Medical School, from which he graduated in 1885. He advanced through many grades of the Pension Office, including Assistant Chief of Division, Medical Examiner, and Principal Examiner, to Qualified Surgeon, in which

capacity he is at the present time chief of the examination section of the medical division.

He is an honorary member of Temple Lodge, No. 32, of this jurisdiction, and of Fredericksburg Lodge, No. 4, of Fredericksburg, Va., in which Lodge George Washington was made a Mason, and of which the Marquis de LaFayette was an honorary member.

M. W. Bro. Woodman's Masonic history began in his senior year at Yale, when he was made a Master Mason in Adelphi Lodge, No. 63, of Fair Haven, Conn., December 14, 1875. February 21, 1889, he affiliated with LaFayette Lodge, No. 19, from which he withdrew May 8, 1895, to become a charter member of Takoma Lodge, No. 29. He was Master of the lodge in 1896. In 1897 he was appointed by Grand Master Matthew Trimble to fill a vacancy in the office of Junior Grand Steward, and was thereafter elected to each succeeding station in the progressive line of the Grand Lodge. On December 27, 1906, he was installed as Grand Master for the term which ended at the St. John's Day communication in 1907.

His Capitular history also dates from his college days. March 8, 1876, he was exalted in Pulaski Chapter, No. 26, of Fair Haven, Conn. Later he became a charter member of Edwards Chapter, No. 21, of Somersworth, N. H. At the organization of Capitol Chapter, No. 11, November 6, 1897, he was installed as the first High Priest, and served in that office during the following year. In 1900 he was appointed Grand Master of the Second Vail in the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, and was regularly advanced to the station of Grand High Priest, filling that office with conspicuous ability for the year 1909.

He received the Cryptic degrees in the Grand Council of Maryland at Baltimore November 14, 1896, and later affiliated with Washington Council, No. 1, R. and S. M., of Washington.

He was knighted in St. Paul Commandery, of Dover, N. H., March 19, 1878. On the organization of Orient Commandery, No. 5, of Washington, October 19, 1895, he became a charter member, and served as Eminent Commander in 1901.

M. W. Bro. Woodman is also an active member of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, the history of his advancement being as follows: Perfect Elu (fourteenth degree), in Mithras Lodge of Perfection, No. 1. December 16, 1884; Knight Rose Croix (eighteenth degree), in Evangelist Chapter, No. 1, October 14, 1885; Knight Kadosh (thirtieth degree), in Robert de Bruce Council, No. 1, August 4, 1886; Master of the Royal Secret (thirty-second degree), in Albert Pike Consistory, No. 1, August 7, 1886. He was elected Knight Commander of the Court of Honor October 19, 1892, and coronetted Honorary Inspector-General, thirty-third degree, April 13, 1894. In November, 1895, he was made Deputy of the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction for the District of Columbia and held that office until December 28, 1909.

He is a Past President of the Convention of High Priests; a member of the Royal Order of Scotland, the Red Cross of Constantine, and Almas Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S.



He was a member of Martha Chapter, No. 4, of the Order of the Eastern Star, from which he dimitted in 1909 to become a charter member and the first Worthy Patron of Temple Chapter, No. 13.

In October, 1889, he was commissioned as a medical officer in the National Guard of the District of Columbia. After serving in the successive ranks of Battalion and Regimental Surgeon and as Major in the Medical Corps, he was placed on the retired list as of the last named rank at his own request, after twenty years' continuous service.

He is a member and lay reader of St. James P. E. Church; also a member of the District of Columbia organizations of the Yale Alumni Association, the D. K. E. fraternity, the Sons of the American Revolution, and the Order of Washington.

In every office held by him M. E. Companion Woodman has brought to the discharge of its duties earnestness and zeal, and his administration of the office of Grand Master in 1907, and his more recent occupancy of the office of Grand High Priest, fully sustained his reputation and added to the high position maintained by our Grand Jurisdiction. As Grand Master his performance of the arduous duties incident to laying the cornerstone of the new Masonic Temple, under circumstances peculiarly trying, reflected great credit upon him, and he has always measured up fully to the requirements of every Masonic duty. Of pleasing personality, our jurisdiction has had few Grand Officers more affable and capable than Bro. Woodman.

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## AUGUSTUS BURT COOLIDGE,

GRAND MASTER, 1908.

Bro. Coolidge was born at Bouckville, Madison County, New York, September 17, 1857. His collegiate education was obtained at Lawrence Academy, Groton, Mass., and Colgate University, Hamilton, New York. He was appointed a clerk in the Bureau of Pensions in 1882, and while so employed he entered upon the study of medicine in one of the medical schools of the City of Washington, graduating therefrom with the degree of M. D. in 1884. Soon after his graduation he was appointed a Medical Examiner in the Bureau of Pensions, which position he still holds.

Bro. Coolidge's Masonic life began in Harmony Lodge, No. 17, this jurisdiction, wherein he was made a Master Mason June 28, 1887. He dimitted from Harmony Lodge December 27, 1888, and affiliated with LaFayette Lodge, No. 19, February 21, 1889, in which he still holds membership. He filled by appointment and election the several subordinate offices in LaFayette Lodge, and served as its Master in the year 1895. He is an honorary member of Temple Lodge, No. 32, this jurisdiction. He was elected Junior Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge at the annual communication in 1897, and thereafter he was elected to each succeeding



station in the progressive line of the Grand Lodge. He was elected and installed as Grand Master at the St. John's Day communication in 1907, and served as Grand Master one year.

Bro. Coolidge's career in Capitular Masonry dates from October 31, 1887, when he was exalted in Mount Vernon Chapter, No. 3, this jurisdiction. In December of the same year he was appointed Master of the Second Vail, and was regularly advanced through the succeeding stations, serving as High Priest in 1894. He was appointed Grand Master of the First Vail in the Grand Chapter in 1897, and after filling every station in the progressive line except that of Grand Principal Sojourner, he was elected and installed as Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons of the District of Columbia February 12, 1904, serving one year.

He received the Cryptic degrees in Washington Council, No. 1, Royal and Select Masters, and is now a member of Adoniram Council, No. 2.

He was knighted in Washington Commandery, No. 1, K. T., January 25, 1888, and served for a period in the official line, but refused advancement by reason of other Masonic duties.

In Scottish Rite Masonry M. W. Bro. Coolidge has had an active career, his record being as follows: Fourteenth degree in Mithras Lodge of Perfection, February 22, 1888; eighteenth degree in Evangelist Chapter Rose Croix, February 6, 1889; thirtieth degree in Robert de Bruce Council of Kadosh, September 13, 1889; thirty-second degree in Albert Pike Consistory, September 23, 1889; thirty-third degree (honorary) in Supreme Council for the Southern Jurisdiction, October 22, 1897. He was Venerable Master of Mithras Lodge of Perfection in 1896 and 1897, and Venerable Master Kadosh of Albert Pike Consistory in 1898.

He was invested with the Royal Order of Scotland September 16, 1889.

He is a member of the Convention of High Priests and the Masonic Veteran Association.

He became a member of Almas Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., January 30, 1888, and served as an officer but declined advancement on account of other duties.

Upon the reorganization of the Board of Managers of the Masonic Temple Association, following the assumption of control of the building by the Grand Lodge, Bro. Coolidge was chosen President and assumed that position October 24, 1910.

He is a member of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Greek letter fraternity.

He has been a member of the Cosmos Club of this city since 1892. The membership of this club is composed chiefly of men of note and distinction in the realm of science, literature, and art, and it is among the best known and most noted clubs of the world. He has been for some years the club's treasurer.

The Masonic career of M. W. Bro. Coolidge has been one of great activity and usefulness to the Craft. In every position which he has been called upon to fill he has shown marked ability in the discharge of its duties. It is not too much to say that no Grand Master has had a more intelligent conception of the duties of his office, or has performed them with greater diligence and satisfaction to the Craft. Because of his kind-



*J. Claude Keiper*

GRAND MASTER, 1911.



ness of heart, his broad and generous sympathy, his true courtesy, his sterling character and his genial personality, he has enjoyed in large measure the love and esteem of his brethren.

He has labored zealously for the upbuilding of Masonry in this jurisdiction, and during his administration as Grand Master his constant endeavor was to set the standard of the institution just a little bit higher than it ever was before. His talks and addresses to the brethren were models of clearness of thought and precision of statement and showed him to be a man of broad culture and large familiarity with books and authorities. An easy, quiet, and forceful speaker he had no difficulty in impressing his ideas upon his hearers or making himself fully understood upon all questions discussed by him.

It was Bro. Coolidge's opportunity and pleasing duty to dedicate our new Masonic Temple to Freemasonry. If the success and distinction of his administration as Grand Master rested upon nothing else, that ceremony alone, because of its quiet dignity, its impressiveness, its beautiful rendition, and his eloquent words of hope, prophecy, and wisdom, secured for him the unqualified approval and lasting admiration of his brethren, and assured for him and for his administration a place second to none in the history of our Grand Lodge. The beauty and grace of that occasion will abide forever in the minds and hearts of the large concourse of brethren who witnessed it.

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## HENRY KEDGLIE SIMPSON,

GRAND MASTER, 1909.

Born in Philadelphia, August 8, 1851, he moved to Washington with his parents in 1859, and has ever since resided in the eastern section of this city. He received his education in the public schools of Philadelphia and Washington, graduating in 1868 from the Spencerian Business College with the highest honors of his class. In 1873 he passed the departmental competitive examination and was appointed to a clerkship in the U. S. Treasury Department, advancing through many grades to the position of assistant in the disbursing office of that Department. In 1889 he resigned from the Government service to accept the position of Secretary of the People's Fire Insurance Company, and remained with the company until it was reinsured by the Royal Fire Insurance Company of England. The new company, gladly availing itself of his valuable experience and services, placed him in charge of its extensive business interests in the eastern section of the District, a position he still fills to the great satisfaction of the company.

He is also Secretary of the Eastern Building and Loan Association; Treasurer of the National Capital Investment Company; Director and Vice-President of the Masonic Mutual Life Association of the District of Columbia; member of the Board of Trade, and Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Dispensary and Casualty Hospital, of which

board he has been a member since 1889. He has been a member of the National Rifles since the organization of that company in 1880; one of its Board of Directors; its Secretary for several years, and its Treasurer until 1908. He participated in many of the company's competitive drill contests, each one of which added laurels to its already deserved fame.

From his youth up he has been closely identified with religious and charitable work; has been a member of the Metropolitan Presbyterian Church since its foundation; Superintendent of its Sunday School for several years; held the offices of Trustee and Deacon; and for many years past has been a devoted and influential member of the Board of Elders.

M. W. Bro. Simpson is a man of great uprightness of character; an esteemed, worthy, and respected citizen, fulfilling in a most exemplary manner all social and domestic ties; and at the same time an earnest, zealous, and accomplished Mason, maintaining the dignity of Grand Master with a personal kindness which made friends of all his brethren. His addresses were instructive, filled with pathos and humor, and pointed with anecdote, and always held his hearers in the closest attention. While he has attained the highest honor in the gift of Masonry, he is still an earnest worker in another branch of the Order, and the full record of his services to the Craft is yet to be written.

M. W. Bro. Simpson was made a Master Mason October 6, 1876, in Lebanon Lodge, No. 7, of this jurisdiction, and after filling various official stations became its Worshipful Master in 1887. In 1898 he was elected Junior Grand Steward in the Grand Lodge, and after serving a term in each succeeding station in the line was, on December 27, 1908, elected and installed Grand Master for the year 1909. He is also an honorary contributing member of Temple Lodge, No. 32.

On March 24, 1882, he was exalted in Eureka Chapter, No. 4, R. A. M., and became its High Priest in 1888. In 1897 he was appointed Grand Master of the First Vail in the Grand Chapter, filled all the stations, except that of Grand Royal Arch Captain, and was installed Grand High Priest, serving the Royal Craft with conspicuous distinction for the year ending in February, 1906.

He received the Cryptic degrees in Washington Council, No. 1, Royal and Select Masters, February 16, 1903.

On July 26, 1882, he received the orders of knighthood in Washington Commandery, No. 1, K. T., and was Eminent Commander for the year 1894. On the organization of the Grand Commandery, January 14, 1896, he was elected Grand Prelate, and re-elected each succeeding year thereafter until 1905, when he was elected to the official line as Grand Warder, and now occupies the station of Grand Captain-General.

M. W. Bro. Simpson is an active member of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, the history of his advancement being as follows: Made a Perfect Èlu (fourteenth degree) in Mithras Lodge of Perfection, No. 1, July 4, 1886, a Knight Rose Croix (eighteenth degree) in Evangelist Chapter, No. 1, February 24, 1888; a Knight Kadosh (thirtieth degree) in Robert de Bruce Council, No. 1, February 15, 1889; a Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret (thirty-second degree) in Albert Pike



Consistory, No. 1, April 15, 1889; and elected a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor October 19, 1897, by the Supreme Council, thirty-third degree (mother Council of the world), Southern Jurisdiction of the United States.

He is also a member of the Royal Order of Scotland, of the Convention of Anointed High Priests, of the Masonic Veteran Association, of Almas Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., and of Temple Chapter, No. 13, O. E. S.

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## GEORGE CLARKE OBER,

GRAND MASTER, 1910.

Brother Ober, son of the late John and Frances Ober, is a native of the jurisdiction over which he has presided. Born in Washington, April 17, 1860, he was educated by private tutors and graduated at the Emerson Institute in 1878. The following year he entered upon the study of medicine at the Medical College of the Georgetown University, from which he graduated with the highest honors of his class in 1882. After serving a year as resident physician of the Children's Hospital, in 1883 he engaged in private practice, in which he has won distinction and success. From 1891 to 1903 he was Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics in the Medical Department of the National University. Upon the passage of the Medical Practice Act in 1896 and the organization of the several Boards authorized thereby, he was appointed by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia a member of the Board of Medical Examiners, elected Secretary thereof, and served in that capacity for nine years, when he was elected to the office of President, which he still holds. He is an ex-President of the Board of Medical Supervisors of the District, and for the last four years its Secretary. He has also served as Secretary and as First Vice-President of the Medical Association of the District of Columbia; as Chairman of the Judicial Council of the American Therapeutical Society, and is an ex-President and for many years a member of Board of Counsellors of the Medical Association of the District.

Bro. Ober is a ready, easy, and forceful speaker, a man of dignified yet pleasing personality and polished manner, and possessing, as he does in an unusual degree, a judicial mind and sound judgment, has won an enviable reputation as an able executive and presiding officer.

These qualities have brought to him the rather unique distinction of having filled, in addition to the office of Grand Master, the positions of Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons and Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery, K. T., of the District of Columbia, being the incumbent of the latter office at the date of this publication. It is also sufficiently unprecedented to be worthy of note that from May until December, 1910, he ably filled both the chairs of Grand Master and Grand Commander.



M. W. Bro. Ober was made a Master Mason in Naval Lodge, No. 4, April 18, 1889; exalted to the sublime degree of Royal Arch Mason in Washington Naval Chapter, No. 6, May 29, 1890; knighted in Washington Commandery, No. 1, September 23, 1891, and became a charter member and the first Captain-General of Orient Commandery, No. 5, October 19, 1895. He was Master of his lodge in 1899, High Priest of his chapter in 1894, and Commander of his commandery in 1898, and his term of service as presiding officer of each body was notable for its prosperity.

In the Grand Lodge he served a full term in every chair from Junior Grand Steward to Grand Master. He was elected Grand Commander in May, 1910, after serving successively in the various subordinate offices.

In the Grand Chapter, R. A. M., he filled every station from Grand Master of the Second Vail, with the exception of Grand Captain of the Host, and was Grand High Priest in 1904.

He is Past President of the Convention of High Priests and a member of Adoniram Council, No. 2, R. and S. M., of the Masonic Veteran Association, and of Almas Temple, Mystic Shrine.

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## J. CLAUDE KEIPER,

GRAND MASTER, 1911.

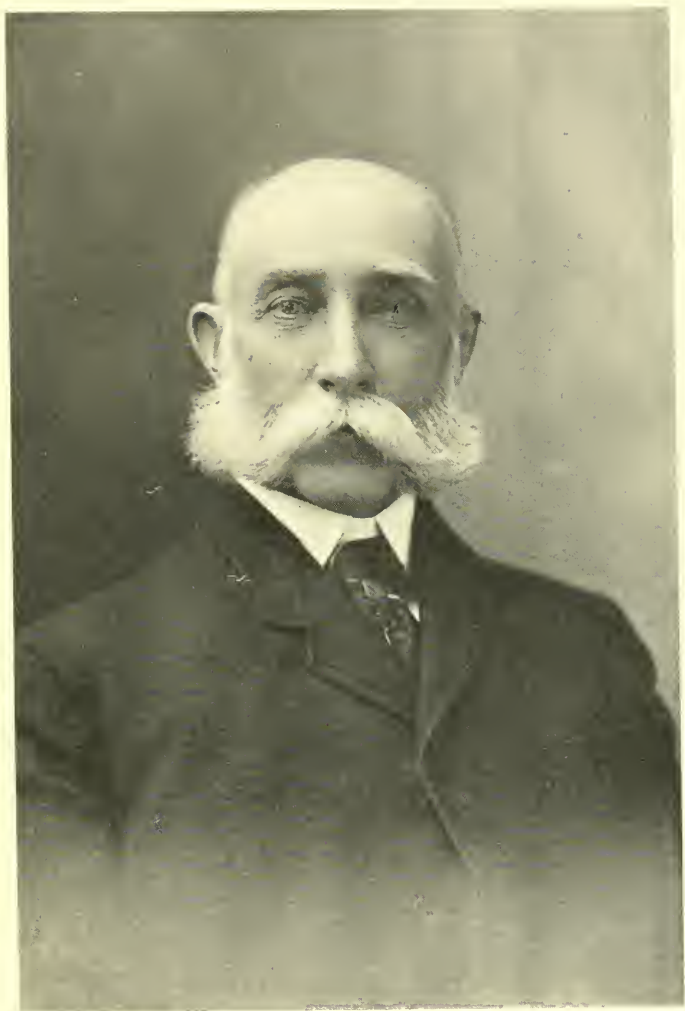
The Most Worshipful Brother who occupies the East in the Grand Lodge for the Centennial year was elevated to that office at the comparatively early age of forty-one.

He was born in St. Nicholas, Schuylkill County, Pa., October 9, 1869, and received his education in the public schools of Shenandoah, in the same county, and the State Normal School of Bloomsburg, Pa. After graduation from the latter institution he taught school for several years in Shenandoah, Pa., and in 1890 removed to Washington and accepted an appointment in the Surgeon General's Office, War Department, in which branch of the service he has since remained, at the present time occupying a position of trust and responsibility in the office of the Adjutant-General of the Army.

After locating in this city he attended the Law School of the Columbian (now George Washington) University and holds the degrees of LL. B. and LL. M. from that institution.

His Masonic career began January 16, 1895, when he was made a Master Mason in Columbia Lodge, No. 3, F. A. A. M., of this city. He became at once a most active and efficient worker, his exceptional qualifications bringing him rapid promotion from the chair of Senior Steward (to which he was appointed June 19, 1895), thro several offices to the East where he served his lodge for the year 1899. He also filled the position of Secretary of Columbia Lodge from April 15, 1904, to December 2, 1910.

Elected Junior Grand Steward in December, 1900, he has successively



*Geo. E. Corson*

JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN, 1880; GRAND HIGH PRIEST, 1886;  
GENERAL GRAND KING, GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER,  
U. S. A.; GRAND COMMANDER, K. T., 1902.



filled the various intermediate offices and was installed as Grand Master December 27, 1910.

He received the Royal Arch degree in Mt. Vernon Chapter, No. 3, R. A. M., October 30, 1895, and was elected High Priest December 10, 1900.

He was knighted in Washington Commandery, No. 1, K. T., March 7, 1900; served as Commander 1908-9; was elected Recorder of that body April 14, 1909, and is filling that office at the date of publication.

He has also been a member of Almas Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., since March 17, 1900.

Possessed of tireless energy and a genius for detail work he has filled the various offices to which he has been called with conspicuous ability, his terms as the executive officer of the several Masonic bodies being especially brilliant and successful.

His equipment for the exalted station of Grand Master is of a high order. To a trained and cultured intellect he adds a power of clear and graceful expression that gives him oratorical rank as a forcible, convincing and pleasing speaker, while his well-balanced mind, enriched by years of conscientious study, affords him a grasp upon the larger phases of Fraternity life of the utmost value to the Craft.

His pleasing personality and affable manner make him deservedly popular among his brethren and fit him especially for the social obligations of his position, more than usually exacting during the Centennial year.

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## BEN W. MURCH,

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER, 1911.

Born in Carmel, Me., June 29, 1858, he graduated from Bates College, Lewiston, Me., in 1882, and has since been engaged in educational work, teaching in Maine, Ohio, Vermont, and the District of Columbia, coming to this city in January, 1887. He is at present Supervisor of the Second Division Schools and Director of Night Schools.

Bro. Murch brings to the discharge of the duties of his exalted station the broad culture of the scholar and the benefit of years of executive experience. He is a logical and forceful speaker; is a man of dignified presence, yet modest and unassuming, and has the respect and esteem of the entire Fraternity.

He was made a Master Mason November 24, 1881, in Benevolent Lodge, No. 87, Carmel, Me.; affiliated with George C. Whiting Lodge, No. 22, of this jurisdiction December 12, 1889; served in several of the subordinate offices of the latter lodge and as Master, 1898-99; was elected Junior Grand Steward December, 1901, and has served successively in each of the offices of the Grand Lodge to his present station.

He is a member of Potomac R. A. Chapter, No. 8, and has served therein as Captain of the Host, Scribe, King, High Priest, and Secretary, having filled the latter office for six years.

He is a member of Potomac Commandery, No. 3, K. T., and served that body as Recorder for four years.

He is a member of Mizpah Chapter, No. 8, O. E. S., and was Patron thereof in 1899; a member of the Convention of Anointed High Priests, President in 1909, and present Secretary; a member of Washington Council, No. 1, R. and S. M., the Masonic Veterans' Association, and Almas Temple, Mystic Shrine.

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## CHARLES E. BALDWIN,

SENIOR GRAND WARDEN, \*1911.

Brother Baldwin was born Jan. 4, 1864, near Bradford, Iowa, where his boyhood was spent on a farm. His early education was received in the district public schools, which he attended during the winter terms when the duties of the farm would permit. He afterward attended Bradford Academy, at Bradford, Iowa, and the Iowa State Agricultural College, at Ames, Iowa. After leaving college he engaged in school teaching, first in a country school and afterward as Principal of the Public Schools at Ionia, Fredericksburg, and Lawler, Iowa. In 1889 he was appointed a clerk in the Department of Labor in Washington and has been advanced through the various official grades to the position of Statistical Expert, and at present is Chief of the Examination Division in the Bureau of Labor, Department of Commerce and Labor. After coming to Washington he took up the study of pharmacy and graduated from the National College of Pharmacy in 1891, at which college he served as President of his class.

Bro. Baldwin was initiated in the mysteries of Freemasonry in King David Lodge, No. 28, F. A. A. M., March 6, 1894, passed April 3, 1894, and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason May 1, 1894. He served through the line of offices and was Master in 1898. He is now Treasurer of King David Lodge. He received the Capitular degrees in Eureka Chapter, No. 4, Royal Arch Masons, in 1897, and served as High Priest in 1905. He was knighted in Columbia Commandery, No. 2, Knights Templar, in October, 1902, and presided as Eminent Commander in 1907-08. He is an honorary member of Mary Commandery, No. 36, K. T., of Philadelphia, Pa.

At the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery, K. T., of the District of Columbia, May 9, 1910, he was elected Grand Captain of the Guard.

The Council degrees were conferred upon him in Washington Council, No. 1, Royal and Select Masters, in 1905. He afterward became a charter member of Adoniram Council, No. 2, and served as its first Treasurer under its charter.

He was honored by election to the office of Excellent President of the Convention of High Priests in 1910.

At the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, F. A. A. M., of the

District of Columbia, in December, 1902, he was elected Junior Grand Steward, and has advanced successively through each of the several stations and places to that of Senior Grand Warden, which station he now occupies.

He is a member of Almas Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S.

He has also been an active worker in the Order of Knights of Pythias, being a Past Chancellor Commander of Polo Lodge, No. 215, K. of P., of the jurisdiction of Iowa, and having served two terms as a representative in the Grand Lodge.

A man of high intellectual attainments and rare executive ability, of courteous demeanor and magnetic pleasing personality, Bro. Baldwin's coming administration as Grand Master cannot fail to be of the greatest credit and value to this jurisdiction.

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## THOMAS JOHN NEWTON,

JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN, 1911.

Born in Liverpool, England, January 20, 1852, he came to Philadelphia, Pa., when nine years of age, and received his education in the public schools of the latter city. After engaging in mercantile pursuits for a few years he removed to Washington, D. C., and entered the Government service as a clerk in the Department of State, July 1, 1874, and has been continuously employed in that service to the present time, filling many positions of trust, among them that of Special Disbursing Officer of the Department for the Alaskan Boundary Tribunal, which met in London, England, from August 1 to November 18, 1903.

Bro. Newton was raised in National Lodge, No. 12, April 20, 1880, and filled the East in that body for the years 1885 and 1886; was exalted in Eureka R. A. Chapter, No. 4, March 23, 1883, and served as High Priest in 1889; was knighted in Washington Commandery, No. 1, K. T., May 23, 1883.

Bro. Newton has been an indefatigable worker in the different branches of local Masonry, but perhaps his most valuable efforts have been directed toward the perfection of the Masonic Relief work, and along this line he has builded for himself and the jurisdiction an enviable record. His work in this direction commenced on the local Board as a delegate from his lodge in 1882, and he has been in continuous active service to the present time, serving as Secretary from 1886 to 1890, inclusive, when he was elected Vice-President and then President, serving in the latter office two years. In 1904 he again took up the duties as Secretary and is still holding that position.

On the formation of the General Masonic Relief Association for the United States and Canada, in 1885, our Board became a contributing member, and it has been his privilege to attend all its meetings as a delegate from our local Board, with the single exception of the 1903 meeting, when



he was absent from the country on Government business. He has served the Association in various capacities, *i. e.*, as a member of the Advisory Board from September, 1890, to 1899, when he was elected Second Vice-President; in 1901, elected First Vice-President, and in 1903, notwithstanding his absence, was elected President, serving until 1905, and by virtue of such service is a permanent member of said association. At the present time, he is holding the important position of Chairman of the Committee on Organization and Membership.

Gifted with an unusually attractive personality, of courteous, kindly demeanor, Bro. Newton has a deservedly wide circle of friends, while his exceptional mental equipment and earnestness of purpose insures for the jurisdiction a successful administration under his guidance when he shall have been installed as Grand Master.

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## ALEXANDER GRANT,

GRAND MARSHAL, 1911.

This Brother was born in Monroe, Mich., in the early fifties and is of Scotch parentage. He was educated in the public schools of his native city and graduated from the high school at the age of sixteen. He immediately entered the local post-office as a clerk and served in that capacity and as assistant postmaster for two and a half years. He then obtained a position as mail route agent on the Flint & Pere Marquette Railway, then just completed between Toledo, Ohio, and Bay City, Mich. In 1872 he was transferred to the west division of the great through trunk mail route between New York and Chicago, on the N. Y. Central and Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railways, his assignment being between Cleveland and Chicago. He passed through the several grades from roustabout to clerk-in-charge, and in the latter capacity served on the first exclusive fast mail ever run in the United States. In 1880 he was detailed to the office of the Division Superintendent at Cleveland as Examiner and filled that position for something over two years, when he was called to Washington to assume a place in the office of the General Superintendent. He served in various capacities in that office and in December, 1884, was made Chief Clerk, which position he held until August, 1897, when he was promoted to the position of Assistant General Superintendent. He succeeded Capt. James E. White as General Superintendent of Railway Mail Service of the United States March 1, 1907.

Mr. Grant has been for many years a well-known figure in social and club circles. He is an enthusiastic lover and encourager of athletic sports of all kinds. Before coming to Washington he was for a number of years a member of the Board of Governors and Vice-President of the Northwestern Amateur Rowing Association, an organization comprising all of the rowing associations in the various cities located upon the Great Lakes. Shortly after coming to Washington he associated himself with the



*A. W. Johnston,*

GRAND SECRETARY OF THE GRAND LODGE AND GRAND CHAPTER  
AND GRAND RECORDER OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY.



Columbia Boat Club and shared in its fortunes and those of its successor, the Columbia Athletic Club., being for many years on the Board of Governors, two years Vice-President and three years President of the last-named organization. He is an active and enthusiastic member of the Columbia Golf Club.

Bro. Grant comes from good Masonic stock. His father was for several years Master of Monroe Lodge, No. 27, A. F. and A. M., jurisdiction of Michigan, and subsequently elected Secretary, which office he held until his death in 1865. An elder brother was also Master of the same lodge, High Priest of his chapter, Eminent Commander of his commandery, and for several years District Deputy Grand Master of one of the Districts of Michigan. Alexander Grant was made a Master Mason in Benjamin B. French Lodge, No. 15, F. A. A. M., February 8, 1893, passed through the several offices and was elected Master in 1898. He was exalted in Columbia Royal Arch Chapter, No. 1, May 2, 1894, and was elected High Priest in 1900. He was made a Knight Templar in Columbia Commandery, No. 2, K. T., June 15, 1894, and shortly after was appointed Captain of the Guard. He served successively as Sword Bearer, Standard Bearer, Junior and Senior Warden, and in 1902 was elected Eminent Commander.

Mr. Grant is an active, earnest Masonic worker and his rapid elevation to the highest offices in the several bodies with which he has been connected is the best evidence of his faithfulness and devotion to the Order. He is Grand Marshal in the Grand Lodge and Generalissimo in the Grand Commandery. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Masonic Mutual Life Association.

He is also Past Potentate of Almas Temple, Mystic Shrine.

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## WILLIAM W. JERMANE,

SENIOR GRAND DEACON, 1911.

Brother Jermane was born November 4, 1862, in Cincinnati, Ohio. His father was a minister in the Baptist Church and at the time was pastor of the church of that denomination at Frankfort Ky., in which city and at various other places in the same State, the subject of this sketch spent the first twelve years of his life. The family then removed to Indiana and later to Illinois, and at Sullivan, in the latter State, Bro. Jermane attended school. His higher education was secured at the Southern Illinois Normal University, Carbondale, that State, finishing in June, 1881.

In July of the same year he began work in a country printing office in Pike County, Ill. From there he went to Pittsfield, the county seat, to accept a position on a weekly paper of considerable influence, and in 1883 permanently gave up the work of typesetting and became a member of the local staff of the old *Quincy Herald* (daily). From the

latter place he went to St. Joseph, Mo., where he was in turn, reporter, city editor, editorial writer, managing editor and editor of the *Daily Herald*; was city editor of the *Tribune* of Minneapolis for several years, beginning in 1889, and in 1891 began work for the *Minneapolis Journal*, in whose employment he still remains, representing that paper at Washington since 1899, and is also correspondent of the *Seattle Times*. In local newspaper circles he has been Secretary of the Standing Committee of Correspondents for four years, is a member of the Gridiron Club, and also the National Press Club.

Bro. Jermane received the Blue Lodge degrees in Charity Lodge, No. 331, St. Joseph, Mo., in April, 1886, the Chapter degrees in the same city in Mitchell Chapter, No. 89, April 1887, and was knighted in St. Joseph Commandery, No. 4, K. T., in the fall of 1887.

After removing to Washington, he dimitted from the several bodies in Missouri and affiliated with Pentalpha Lodge in 1902, with Mt. Horeb Chapter the same year, and later with Columbia Commandery, K. T., all of this city.

Bro. Jermane is possessed of unusual ability as an executive; is a fluent, magnetic, and convincing speaker, and stands perhaps without a peer in this jurisdiction as a finished and impressive ritualist. These qualities soon marked him out for rapid advancement, and after serving as Senior Deacon and Senior Warden, he became Master of Pentalpha for the year 1905, and was also elected President of the Master's Association during that year.

At the election succeeding his affiliation with Mt. Horeb R. A. Chapter he was appointed to the Second Vail and, after filling the intermediate stations, served as High Priest in 1909 and also as President of the High Priests' Association for that year.

He is a member of Almas Temple and of Adoniram Council, No. 2, R. and S. M., and in the latter body is an active worker.

During the year 1909, his physical condition seeming to presage a breaking down, he resigned from a number of offices, among others the Chairmanship of the Grand Lodge Centennial Committee, the position of Assistant Rabban in the shrine, and that of Junior Warden in his commandery.

In the Grand Lodge line he is now serving as S. G. Deacon and in the Grand Chapter line as Grand Master of the Second Vail.

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## JAMES W. WITTEN,

JUNIOR GRAND DEACON, 1911.

Born in Grundy County, Mo., in 1855, he was educated in the public schools and at Central College, Fayette, Mo. In 1881 he left the farm for the law office and began practicing at Albany, Mo., and in October of the same year was nominated for prosecuting attorney, to which office he was elected and served two terms. He continued the practice of law



till he was called to the legal department of the General Land Office in 1893. He is now Chief Law Officer of that department and for several years has been superintendent of all land openings. It is universally understood that his conduct of the openings has been entirely satisfactory to all concerned for fairness and equitable treatment of the homestead seekers.

Those who are nearest to Bro. Witten recognize best his nobility of character, unimpeachable integrity, and high ideals, and these qualities which have won him such distinction as a public servant have brought to him rapid but deserved promotion in the Masonic circles.

He was initiated in Washington Centennial Lodge, No. 14, May 4, passed June 1, and raised July 6, 1898; was elected Senior Steward in 1899, and after filling all the intermediate offices was Master in 1904.

He entered the official line of the Grand Lodge as Senior Grand Steward at the election in December, 1907.

He was exalted in Mt. Vernon Chapter, No. 3, R. A. M., May 28, 1900.

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## LEM TOWERS, JR.,

GRAND SWORD BEARER, 1911.

Born in Washington, D. C., January 9, 1862, he has resided continuously since that time in the District of Columbia. His education was begun in the public schools, but shortly before reaching the age of twelve he was compelled, through force of circumstances, to leave school and seek employment, which he obtained as messenger boy in the old Washington Stock Exchange in September, 1873. In October, 1875, he entered the real estate office of A. L. Barber & Co.; in April, 1879, he was employed in the insurance offices of Hanson & Blackford, and in December, 1881, was appointed as a stenographer in the office of the Official Reporter of Debates of the United States Senate. In 1883 he became assistant editor of the *National Tribune*, of this city. In 1884 he was appointed as a stenographer in the office of the Secretary of the Treasury, and remained in that office until May, 1890, when he resigned to become the first Secretary of the Lincoln Fire Insurance Company. In January, 1892, he succeeded to the Secretaryship of the Columbia Fire Insurance Company, which position he held until that company retired from business in 1908, since which time he has been engaged in a general insurance business. In 1889 Bro. Towers graduated at law from the old Columbian (now George Washington) University, and in June of that year was admitted to practice before the bar of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia.

Bro. Towers being possessed of an unusually courteous and pleasing demeanor is one of the most popular Masons in the jurisdiction, while his keen intellect, business training, and tact combine to make him a most able executive officer and have won for him a large measure of success in all the offices he has held in business and Fraternal circles.



Bro. Towers received all of his Masonic degrees in this jurisdiction. He was raised in Potomac Lodge, No. 5, F. A. A. M., September 3, 1900; exalted in Potomac Chapter, No. 8, R. A. M., October 31, 1900, and knighted in Potomac Commandery, No. 3, K. T., December 5, 1900. He was made a Noble of Almas Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., February 7, 1901. He was Master of Potomac Lodge for the year 1907; High Priest of Potomac Chapter, 1905, and Eminent Commander of Potomac Commandery, 1906. He is a charter member of Adoniram Council, No. 2, R. and S. M., and an honorary member of Temple Lodge, No. 32. He has passed through the degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, having received the thirty-second in Albert Pike Consistory June 30, 1903.

At present he is also Grand Principal Sojourner of the Grand Chapter, R. A. M., and Grand Standard-Bearer of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar.

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## JOSEPH HERCUS MILANS,

GRAND PURSUIVANT, 1911.

Born October 31, 1877, at Landisburg, Perry Co., Pa., and has resided in Washington, D. C., practically all his life. He was educated in the public schools and Columbian (now George Washington) and National Universities of this city; received degrees of Bachelor of Laws, 1899; Master of Patent Law, 1900, at Columbian University, and Master of Laws, 1900, at National University; was first admitted to the practice of law before the bar of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia September 19, 1899, and has since become a member of the bar of many of the Federal courts including the Supreme Court of the United States; has for more than sixteen years devoted his practice to the specialty of patent law, being a member of the Patent Law Association of Washington.

He is a member of the legal Greek letter fraternity of Phi Delta Phi; is Secretary of the Dime Savings Bank, and a Director of the East Washington Savings Bank, this city.

He was initiated in St. John's Lodge, No. 11, July 27, 1900; passed August 24, 1900; raised September 28, 1900, and served as Master in 1904. He is also an honorary member of Temple Lodge, No. 32.

Received the Mark Master's degree in Washington Naval Chapter, No. 6, March 3, 1903; Past Master's degree March 17, 1903; M. E. Master's degree, March 17, 1903; Royal Arch degree, April 21, 1903, and at the present time is serving as Scribe; is a member of Adoniram Council, No. 2, R. & S. M. Orient Commandery, No. 5, K. T., conferred the Order of the Temple upon him June 15, 1903, and elected him Commander in 1909.

He is a member of Martha Chapter, No. 4, O. E. S., and served as Patron in the year 1906.



*H. N. Harper*

OFFICIAL HISTORIAN, GRAND LODGE, F. A. A. M.;  
GRAND HIGH PRIEST, R. A. M., 1910-1911.



He is a member of the Royal Order of Scotland, and has for several years been a member of the following Scottish Rite bodies: Mithras Lodge of Perfection, No. 1; Evangelist Chapter, R. C., No. 1; Robert de Bruce Council, K. K., No. 1, and Albert Pike Consistory, M. R. S., No. 1.

He was elected Junior Grand Steward in 1908, and has been advanced to and is now serving as Grand Pursuivant.

Having already attained an enviable position in the professional and business world his unusual ability is proven, and this in connection with his record as a capable and painstaking officer in the several Masonic bodies, gives assurance of a satisfactory and brilliant administration of the office of Grand Master, to which, in the natural course of events, he may attain at an age which would rank him with the little coterie of men who have realized that ambition while comparatively young.

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### J. HARRY CUNNINGHAM,

SENIOR GRAND STEWARD, 1911.

Born in Washington, D. C., July 19, 1865, he received his education in public schools of this city, graduating from the high school in 1881. For twenty-three years he was connected with the Maurice Joyce Engraving Co., was for a short time manager of the Howard Printing Co., and has been cartoonist and correspondent of the *Washington Herald* since the organization of that paper. In his character as a cartoonist Bro. Cunningham has gained a national reputation for his brilliantly conceived and artistically executed hits on the current happenings of the day. Of tried executive ability and affable demeanor his rise in Masonic circles has been rapid and his friends legion.

For fifteen years Bro. Cunningham was a member of the National Rifles military company, and at one time was Adjutant with rank of Lieutenant on the staff of that organization. He also served one year in the D. C. National Guard.

He is a Past State Councillor of the Jr. O. U. A. M., a member of the Board of Trade, of the Red Cross Society, of the National Geographic Society, of St. Andrew's Society, the National Press Club, and the famous Gridiron Club.

He was made a Master Mason in Hope Lodge, No. 20, April 8, 1887, and served as Master in 1891; was exalted in Columbia R. A. Chapter, No. 1, in 1887, but is now a member of Montgomery Chapter, of Kensington, Md.; was knighted in Columbia Commandery, No. 2, K. T., in 1888, and served as Eminent Commander in 1904; is also an honorary member of Mary Commandery, No. 36, of Philadelphia, Pa.

He is a member of the Masonic Veterans' Association, of Mithras Lodge of Perfection, and of Almas Temple, Mystic Shrine.

## CHARLES J. O'NEILL,

JUNIOR GRAND STEWARD, 1911.

The subject of this sketch, whose election filled out the roster of Grand officers for the Centennial year, was born in Washington, D. C., June 15, 1869, and has resided therein during his entire life.

His early education was acquired in the local public schools. In 1893 he was graduated from the Lehigh University with the degree of Electrical Engineer and in 1903 from the National University Law School, of this city, with the degree of LL. B.

He is at present in enjoyment of a lucrative practice as attorney-at-law and counselor in patent causes.

He is a member of the University Club of Washington.

Bro. O'Neill brings to his career as an officer of the Grand Lodge equipment of the highest order. His analytical mind united with his ability as a clear and convincing reasoner has for a number of years given him unusual weight in the counsels of the Fraternity, while his demonstrated executive ability, cultivated intellect, and dignified yet affable demeanor give assurance that his administration of the offices which in the natural order of things lie before him will be eminently successful.

He was initiated in Acacia Lodge, No. 18, June 26, 1894; passed, July 24, 1894, and raised August 28, 1894; served as Worshipful Master for the Masonic year of 1896, and as Secretary 1898-1902.

He was exalted in Washington Naval R. A. Chapter, No. 6, October 23, 1894; was knighted in Columbia Commandery, No. 2, K. T., May 3, 1895, and dimitted therefrom to become a charter member of Orient Commandery, No. 5, October 19, 1895.

He became a member of Martha Chapter, No. 4, O. E. S., March 18, 1898; served as Patron thereof for 1899, and as Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter, O. E. S., D. C., for 1902.

He was elected Junior Grand Steward December 27, 1910.

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WILLIAM REYNOLDS SINGLETON,

GRAND SECRETARY OF THE GRAND LODGE FROM 1875 TO 1901.

Bro. Singleton was born in Norfolk, Va., October 24, 1818. He was descended on his father's side from a long line of distinguished English ancestors, and on his mother's side from William Bradford, the second Governor of the Plymouth Colony. His early life was spent in his native city, where he received an academic education. In 1834 he entered Middlebury College, Vermont, but left before graduating. The college in after years conferred upon him the degree of A. M. Adopting the pro-

fession of architect and civil engineer, in 1836 he removed to the then far West, was engaged for about ten years in railroad construction and on many public works in Illinois and Missouri, and for a brief period edited the *St. Louis Evening Gazette*. Returning to the East in 1849, he was employed in his profession in the navy yards at Norfolk and Pensacola, and for a time resided in Baltimore. In 1863 he came to Washington, and was employed by the War Department in the construction of defenses about the city. At the close of the civil war he was appointed an examiner in the Patent Office, which position he resigned in 1873 to engaged in business as a solicitor of patents, in which he continued until a few years before his death.

Bro. Singleton was made a Mason in Naphtali Lodge, No. 25, of St. Louis, Mo., receiving the third degree January 20, 1840, and a few years later became a member of Independence Lodge, No. 76, of Missouri, of which he was Worshipful Master in 1848. He served as Senior Grand Deacon of the Grand Lodge of Missouri in 1842 and 1843. On the organization of Pentalpha Lodge, No. 23, of this jurisdiction, May 4, 1869, he became a charter member. In 1875 he was elected Grand Secretary of this Grand Lodge and continued in that station until his death.

He was exalted to the degree of Royal Arch Mason in Missouri Chapter, No. 1, of St. Louis, August 20, 1840, and later affiliated with Independence Chapter, No. 15, which he served as King in 1848. He participated in the organization of two chapters in this city—LaFayette, No. 5, in 1867, and Mount Horeb, No. 7, in 1872—and was the charter High Priest of the latter body.

He received the Cryptic degrees in Missouri in 1841; was a charter member and Thrice Illustrious Master of LaFayette Council, No. 1, of this city, now extinct, and was a charter member of Washington Council, No. 1.

He was knighted in Washington Commandery, No. 1, K. T., of this city, June 9, 1875.

He was made an Honorary Sovereign Grand Inspector-General, thirty-third degree, A. A. S. R., by the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction, May 7, 1878. In the same year he was invested with the Royal Order of Scotland.

He departed this life February 23, 1901, and his remains were escorted to Oak Hill Cemetery, February 25, 1901, by his lodge, chapter, commandery, delegations from other Masonic bodies, and a large concourse of friends, and interred with Masonic honors by the Grand Lodge.

Special services, in memory of Bro. Singleton, were held by the Grand Lodge December 19, 1901, and a movement at once set on foot for the erection of a suitable memorial to the distinguished dead which resulted in the erection of a handsome monument in Oak Hill Cemetery by the local Fraternity and its dedication by the Grand Lodge July 25, 1903, with appropriate and impressive ceremonies.



The following extract from the memorial issued and caused to be circulated by Grand Master Standiford is quoted as perhaps the best pen picture available of this remarkable man and Brother :

“‘Paint me as I am!’ said Cromwell, when the artist suggested the elimination of a facial blemish. No higher tribute can be paid to the memory of Bro. Singleton than to portray him as he was. We have no need to ascribe to him imaginary virtues, no occasion for the effacement of blemishes. His character was as near perfection as can be attained by finite man. Masonry was his life-long study, and his later years were given entirely to the service of the Craft. Profoundly learned in Biblical and Masonic archæology, he traced the history of the Craft from the building of the first temple down through the Ancient Mysteries, the Essenes, and the guilds of the Middle Ages to the formation of the first Grand Lodge, and the evolution from operative to speculative Masonry. Landmarks, symbols, rites, traditions, law and precedent, custom and usage, were to him as household words. At fourscore, with sixty years of Masonic life behind him, he often remarked, ‘I am still learning Masonry.’ His contributions to Masonic literature gave him a world-wide fame, and placed him among the leading writers and thinkers of the Craft.

“Great talents and achievements set men apart. We view them as on a pedestal, admire them from afar, but know little of their personal life, habits, and characteristics. But Bro. Singleton was one among us, and his noble life was an open book to the six thousand Masons of our jurisdiction, who shared in his joys and sorrows, and to whom his death is a personal loss. He knew no rank or distinction in his intercourse with his brethren, but his office was accessible to all, and his sympathetic disposition, kindly humor, cordial greeting, and ever ready response to calls for counsel, won the love and veneration of all. His charities were limited only by his means, but were known only when spoken of by the beneficiaries. Possessing strong religious convictions, he was ever considerate of the views of others. In his broad nature there was boundless love for his fellow men, but no room for bigotry or intolerance.”

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### ARVINE W. JOHNSTON,

GRAND SECRETARY OF THE GRAND LODGE, F. A. A. M.

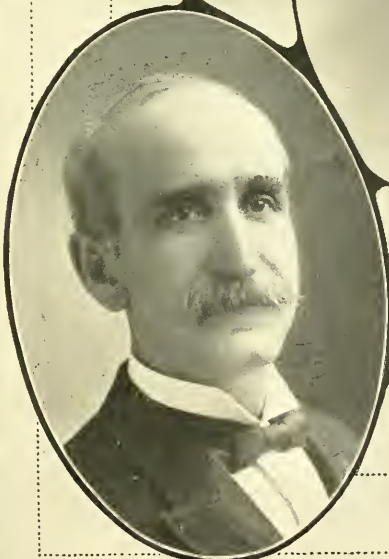
Brother Johnston, who is also Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter, R. A. M., and Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery, K. T., District of Columbia, was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, January 28, 1856, but soon after his parents removed to Medina, in the northern part of the same State, where he retains his legal residence. His early education was acquired in the public schools, being supplemented by that most valuable addition to a public school education, an apprenticeship at printing in a newspaper office, to which he devoted a half dozen years of his young manhood, a portion of his time being given to reporting the news. His father, a soldier in an Ohio regiment, having been killed in the battle of Resaca, Ga., during the civil war, he was practically the architect of his own fortunes.



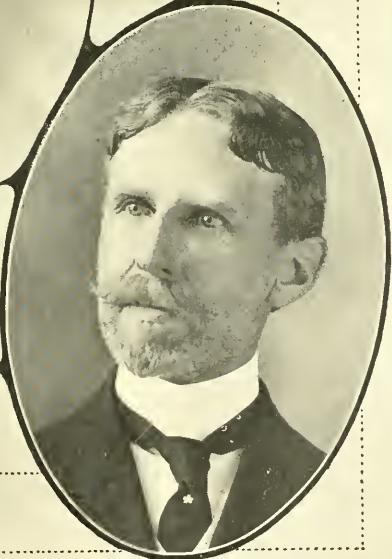
BEN W. MURCH  
DEPUTY GRAND MASTER  
1911



CHARLES E. BALDWIN  
S. G. WARDEN  
1911



THOMAS H. YOUNG  
G. LECTURER



J. RUSSELL VERBRYCKE  
G. CHAPLAIN



Bro. Johnston received an appointment in the Treasury Department in 1876 and came to this city, which has ever since remained his place of residence. During his incumbency of the clerkship he completed a course of law in the National University, of this city, graduating with the degree of LL.B. In the Sixth Auditor's Office he worked himself up by regular promotions until he became assistant chief of his division. During the war with Spain he was appointed to a clerkship in the War Department, which he resigned in 1901 to devote his entire time to the duties of the various Masonic offices to which he had been elected.

As a man, Bro. Johnston has the respect and the warm friendship of the Craft, not alone of this jurisdiction, but of the prominent Masons of the country, with many of whom he has acquaintance by meeting them at various national Masonic gatherings, as well as by official correspondence.

For more than twenty years he has been a tireless student of Masonry in all its phases, and as a result brings to the discharge of his varied duties a ripened judgment, which, united with an infinite patience and tactful and courteous disposition, gives him the equipment of an ideal Grand Secretary.

Bro. Johnston is so well recognized an authority on the work and lectures of this jurisdiction, that in 1898, during his absence from the city, he was elected to the office of Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge, which position, however, he declined. For several years after the death of the erudite and world-renowned Bro. William R. Singleton, he was the reviewer of foreign correspondence for the Grand Chapter, a field in which he found ample room for the display of his talent as a writer and a ripe student of Capitular Masonry and in which he won recognition in the Masonic world..

Bro. Johnston was made a Master Mason in Harmony Lodge, No. 17, F. A. A. M., on September 27, 1888, and was Master of the lodge in 1894. He was exalted in Columbia Chapter, No. 1, R. A. M., February 20, 1889, and was its High Priest in 1893. May 17, 1889, he was knighted in Columbia Commandery, No. 2, K. T., and in 1895 assisted in forming Orient Commandery, No. 5, K. T., of which he became Eminent Commander in 1900.

He was appointed Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia May 18, 1896, and elected at the annual grand convocation in that year, and has been re-elected every year since. At his first appearance in a conclave of the Grand Commandery as a member, he was elected Grand Recorder of that body, a position to which he has been annually re-elected. March 16, 1901, he was appointed Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the lamented William R. Singleton, elected at the next ensuing annual grand communication, and re-elected annually since. During his occupancy of the office, he has made a card index of the more than 9,000 living Master Masons of this District and all who have ever been members—so copious and full that the complete Masonic history of

each is at his fingers' ends at a moment's notice. He has also performed a similar service for Capitular Masonry, his card index of the Companions of the District being equally complete and valuable.

In 1897 he was President of the Convention of Anointed High Priests of this jurisdiction. He is also a member of Washington Council, No. 1. R. and S. M.; of Mithras Lodge of Perfection, A. A. S. R., and of Almas Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S.

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## GEORGE EDGAR CORSON,

JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN, 1880.

While never having filled the position of Grand Master, W. Bro. Corson has been for many years one of the most active, best known, and deservedly popular Masons in the District of Columbia, with a record of varied and distinguished service perhaps unequaled in the history of the jurisdiction.

Possessed of a dignified yet pleasing presence, a genial, affable, and courteous disposition, a broad, intellectual, and judicial mind, and an unflagging interest and energy in all the activities of local Masonic circles he has filled the many offices of trust to which he has been called with conspicuous ability.

Bro. Corson, whose ancestors were prominently identified with the early civil and military history of New England, was born in Lebanon, Maine, July 30, 1842. He received his early education in the public schools of his native town and in the Lebanon Academy. August 30, 1861, at the age of nineteen years, he enlisted at Dover, N. H., in the 17th U. S. Infantry, the regiment being at that time stationed and in process of organization at Fort Preble, Portland Harbor, Me. Soon after reporting he was placed on extra duty as acting quartermaster and commissary sergeant and assisted in the organization of the quartermaster and commissary departments of his regiment and in arming and equipping it for service in the field. In March, 1862, he accompanied his regiment to Washington, D. C., where it was assigned to duty with the Army of the Potomac, with which it saw active and honorable service until the close of the war. In April, 1862, he was appointed commissary sergeant of the 1st Battalion of the 17th U. S. Infantry, which rank he held for the remaining period of his enlistment. He participated in all the campaigns of the Army of the Potomac—on the Peninsula, at Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, in New York, in the suppression of the draft riots, at Mine Run, and in the spring of 1864 through the Wilderness to Spottsylvania. Tho a non-combatant by virtue of his office as commissary sergeant, his post of duty being with the wagon train in the rear, and being



thereby exempt from all the risks and hazards of battle, yet having the patriotic and fighting blood of his colonial and revolutionary ancestors in his veins, and being desirous of seeing service with his comrades on the firing line, he, on May 8, 1864, applied for and obtained the permission of his superior officer to report to the commanding officer of his regiment for duty at the front. He did so at once and took part in the battle of Laurel Hill on May 10, and in the battle of Spottsylvania Court House, May 12, 1864. In the last named engagement he received a severe gunshot wound through his left side, which became the subject of great interest to the army surgeons, and is noted by Surgeon George A. Otis in his "Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion," among the celebrated cases of gunshot wounds of the abdomen. For faithful and meritorious service as a non-commissioned officer, and for courage and gallantry in action, he was recommended for a commission in the regular army, but being incapacitated by reason of his wound for service in the field, and having no liking for life at an army post, he declined the proffered honor, and at the expiration of his term of service, August 29, 1864, took his discharge.

A few weeks later he came to Washington, and on October 10, 1864, was appointed to a clerkship in the War Department, where he has continued in various positions of trust and responsibility up to the present time (1911). In the early seventies, while Chief of the Endorsement Subdivision of the Record and Pension Division, Surgeon General's Office, he originated a system which was at once adopted and put into practice, of recording requests for information from the records and of filing all transcriptions and correspondence in connection therewith, now known as the "Record Card File." In 1894, upon the recommendation of the "Dockery Commission"—a commission created by Congress "to inquire into the business methods of the several Executive Departments"—this system was put in force, by the orders of the Secretary of War, in the several Bureaus of the War Department, and made to apply to nearly all their correspondence, which, by simplifying the work and substituting the "Record Card File" for the former numerous and expensive record books, has resulted in the saving of much clerical labor and many thousands of dollars to the Government of the United States.

He is an alumnus of the George Washington University, having been graduated from the Columbian Law School in June, 1871, with the degree of Bachelor of Laws, and was at once admitted to the bar and to practice in the courts of the District of Columbia.

He was mustered into the Grand Army of the Republic in 1871 and has been an active worker in that organization for forty years. He was one of the "Old Guard" that preserved and kept intact the Department of the Potomac, of which he was Department Commander in 1878.

He is a member of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia, of the National Geographic Society, of the American National Red Cross, and of the Maine Association in the District of Columbia.

Bro. Corson was initiated in Harmony Lodge, No. 17, F. A. A. M., December 8, 1870; passed January 12, 1871, and raised February 9, 1871;



served successively as S. D. and J. W. and S. Warden, and was Master of his lodge during 1877 and 1878. He was elected Senior Grand Deacon in 1879, and Junior Grand Warden in 1880.

He received the Capitular degrees in Potomac Chapter, No. 8, Georgetown, D. C., June 20 to July 25, 1871; the same year became Captain of the Host, and after filling the intervening stations was elected High Priest for the year 1875, and was re-elected in 1876. After serving in several of the subordinate chairs in the Grand Chapter he became Grand High Priest for 1886; was appointed Chairman of Committee on Work in 1887, and has served in that capacity to the present time.

At the Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter of the United States at Minneapolis, Minn., in 1891, he was elected G. G. Master First Vail, and has been advanced at each succeeding convocation, now occupying the position of General Grand King, to which exalted station he was elected at Savannah, Ga., November, 1909.

He received the Cryptic degrees in Washington Council, No. 1, of Washington, in July, '83, and January, '91; was elected Recorder in 1886, and served in that capacity for twenty-three successive years.

He was knighted in Potomac Commandery, No. 3, K. T., Georgetown, November 10, 1871; served as Prelate in 1872 and 1873; as Generalissimo from 1874 to 1878, and as Eminent Commander, 1879, 1880 and 1881. He entered the line of the Grand Commandery in 1896 as Grand Standard-Bearer, and after filling the various stations between, filled the office of Grand Commander in 1902. He has served as Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence for the Grand Commandery since May, 1907.

He received the fourth degree to the fourteenth degree of the A. and A. S. R. in Mithras Lodge, No. 1, in March, 1884, and served as Secretary thereof from January 1, 1884, to February 5, 1889; the fifteenth degree to the eighteenth degree in Evangelist Chapter, R. C., No. 1, June and July, 1884, and served as W. M. of that chapter from May 10, 1887, to April 10, 1890; the nineteenth degree to the thirtieth degree in Robert de Bruce Council of Kadosh, October, 1884, to January, 1885, and served as Commander in 1899 and 1900; thirty-first degree and thirty-second degree in Albert Pike Consistory, No. 1, April 1, 1885; was crowned thirty-third degree and proclaimed an Inspector-General (honorary) and a member of the Supreme Council of the A. A. S. R. for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States October 25, 1901.

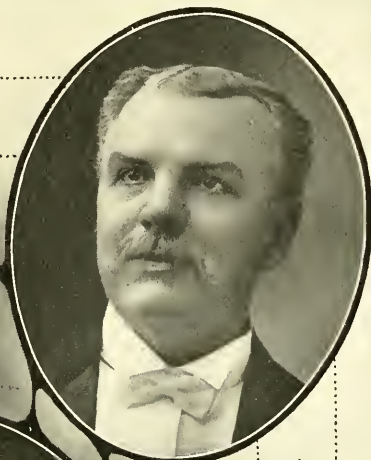
He is a member of the Convention of Anointed High Priests and was President of the same in 1902.

He belongs to the Masonic Veteran Association of the District and filled the office of President of that organization for the years 1908 and 1909.

He received the degrees of the Royal Order of Scotland December 12, 1887, at Washington, D. C., under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Grand Lodge; was appointed First Grand Marischal by Bro. Josiah H. Drummond, the Provincial Grand Master, July 1, 1894, and has been annually reappointed to that office to date.



J. HENNING NELMS  
ASST. G. CHAPLAIN



T. JOHN NEWTON  
J. G. WARDEN



ALEXANDER GRANT  
G. MARSHAL



W. W. JERMANE  
S. G. DEACON



JAMES W. WITTEN  
J. G. DEACON



## KENTON NEAL HARPER,

HISTORIAN, GRAND LODGE, F. A. A. M., DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

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By A. W. Johnston, Grand Secretary.

In the pantheon of those who have rendered able and distinguished service to the Grand Lodge, the author of this work, Bro. Kenton Neal Harper, is deserving of a conspicuous place.

Bro. Harper was born at Gettysburg, Pa., May 15, 1857, and comes of good Masonic stock, his father, Bro. Robert Goodloe Harper, editor, judge, and man of affairs, having been one of the pioneer Masons in that section of Pennsylvania. During the anti-Masonic excitement the elder Harper engaged in the defence of our institution in a pamphlet controversy with the redoubtable Thaddeus Stevens, at whose instigation he was arrested and haled before the legislature at Harrisburg for his connection with the Craft.

As a boy of six young Harper was an eye-witness to many of the scenes of horror enacted in those dreadful days of July 1-3, 1863, when the tide of battle surged back and forth through his native town, and the memory of them remains with him vividly to this day.

His education was obtained in private schools and at Pennsylvania College, being a member of the class of 1876 from that institution. He then engaged in newspaper work for several years in Detroit, Cincinnati, Louisville, and Cumberland, Md., in the latter city holding the positions of associate editor of the *Daily Times* and editor of the *Weekly Alleghanian*.

Coming to Washington, he held for a brief time a position in the Government Printing Office, and on March 8, 1886, entered the service of the War Department, where he has since remained, being at present in charge of the card index rooms of the Medical Division of the Adjutant-General's Office.

Bro. Harper's Masonic career began in 1892, when he was initiated January 21; passed February 18, and raised March 17, in Naval Lodge, No. 4. His aptitude for Masonic work was at once recognized by the lodge, which conferred upon him the unusual honor of an election as Junior Warden in less than nine months after he was raised. After a service of one year in this station and two years as Senior Warden he was elected Master and presided over the lodge in the years 1896 and 1897, and on Dec. 1, 1910, was elected Secretary.

He was exalted in Washington Naval Chapter, No. 6, R. A. M., October 29, 1896, and served the Chapter as High Priest in 1901. In 1903 he was appointed Grand Master of the First Vail in the Grand Chapter, and has been regularly advanced to the office of Grand High Priest, in which he was installed February 9, 1910, for the term which will expire at the Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter in February, 1911.

He was knighted in Orient Commandery, No. 5, K. T., February 19,

1906, and after filling several stations in the progressive line was installed April 18, 1910, as Commander for the year 1910-1911.

He is a member of Adoniram Council, No. 2, R. and S. M.; of Martha Chapter, No. 4, O. E. S., which he served as Worthy Patron in 1901; and of the Board of Directors of the Masonic and Eastern Star Home of the District of Columbia.

Near the Grand bodies of the District of Columbia he is the Representative of the Grand Lodge of Idaho, the Grand Chapter of Iowa, and the Grand Commandery of Tennessee.

He is a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Washington.

Bro. Harper was made a life member of Naval Lodge in 1905 in recognition of his service in preparing the history of the lodge, which was published in that year under the title, "First Century of Naval Lodge, No. 4, F. A. A. M." His ability in collecting and arranging the data for this work and presenting it in a clear and vigorous narrative led to his appointment as Historian of the Grand Lodge by Grand Master Lurtin R. Ginn, and in the present work he has more than justified the wisdom of his appointment and rendered an inestimable service to the Craft. It is a splendid monument to his laborious research, his skill in arrangement, and his ability as a writer.

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## ALBERT PIKE,

GRAND COMMANDER OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL, 33°, A. A. S. R.,  
SOUTHERN JURISDICTION, U. S. A., 1858-1891.

Knowing well that statues of marble and bronze fall to the earth, are swallowed by it, perish, and are forgotten, while the works of genius alone survive, Bro. Pike erected his monument in his poems, in his scholarly writings, and in books containing his profound Masonic and philosophical investigations which are as yet known only to the few. Like the great Roman he desired no other monument save that which is found in his works. The Supreme Council, over which he presided for so many years, has erected to his memory the bronze statue, the work of the great Italian Sculptor, Trentanove, which was unveiled at the celebration of the Centennial Anniversary.

No brief sketch such as must be given in this work can do justice to the life and work of Albert Pike.

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, on the 29th day of December, 1809, he was educated at Newburyport and Framingham. Compelled to teach in order to earn money to pay his board and tuition, he fitted himself to enter the junior class at Harvard College, but finding that to enter that class he would have to pay the fees of the Sophomore and Freshman classes before entering he declined to do so, and thus, as he said, "was



deprived of the advantages of a collegiate education." Afterwards, while teaching, he educated himself by taking substantially the college courses. In 1834 he removed to Arkansas. A soldier in the war with Mexico he commanded a company in Colonel Archibald Yell's Regiment. He was Reporter of the decisions of the Supreme Court of Arkansas, a Judge of that Court, and was regarded as the leading lawyer of the State. Having studied the Civil Law he removed to New Orleans in 1853 and engaged in practice there during that year. He was the first person who proposed to hold a convention for the purpose of considering the building of a railroad to the Pacific Ocean. Entering the Confederate Army he served for a time as a Brigadier-General. His estate was confiscated and was retained by the United States until after his death, when part of it was returned to his children. He removed to Washington and practiced law in that city until 1880, when he gave up the practice. Of his poems the great English critic, "Kit North" (Wilson), said, "they entitle their author to take his place in the highest order of his country's poets." He was versed in many languages, including the Greek, Latin, Hebrew, Sanskrit, French, Spanish, Italian, &c., and there remain as specimens of his work in the Library of the Supreme Council his manuscript translations of the Veda and the Zend-Avesta.

His labors for the Fraternity were the result of the conviction that he could render humanity greater service in that field than in any other, altho he could have achieved great distinction in political life or in the line of his profession. He was prominent and held numerous offices in the York Rite. He was made a Mason in Little Rock in July, 1850, a Royal Arch Mason November 29, 1850, a Knight Templar February, 1853. He received the degrees of the Scottish Rite from Albert G. Mackey on March 20, 1853, at Charleston, and received the thirty-third degree honorary on April 25, 1857, at New Orleans. He was crowned an active member of the Supreme Council March 20, 1858, at Charleston. He was Honorary Grand Commander of the Supreme Councils of Brazil, Egypt, and Tunis, Provincial Past Grand Prior of the Grand Priory of Canada, and was an honorary member of the Supreme Councils of Mexico, Colon, Hungary, New Granada, Italy, the Northern Jurisdiction of the United States, England, Scotland, Ireland, Belgium, Canada, and Greece. His ability, learning, and character, were thus recognized and honored throughout the world.

By reason of his long residence in this city and his active interest in York as well as Scottish Rite Masonry, he was well known, respected, and loved by the entire local Fraternity, and his death, which occurred in this city April 2, 1891, was felt to be an irreparable loss to the jurisdiction.

IN MEMORY OF THE LATE ALBERT PIKE.

In mystic glory with song and story  
The coming ages shall prolong thy fame,  
And o'er the ocean with deep devotion  
The true and faithful shall revere thy name.



While streams are flowing and winds are blowing  
 Along the boundless prairies of the West,  
 Thy manly bearing and dashing daring  
 Shall shine in honor with the brave and blest.

The good you brought us, the truth you taught us,  
 Shall linger down the billowy tides of time—  
 In templed tower with pride and power  
 In every heart and soul, and land and clime.

You taught us beauty and love and duty,  
 And Truth, the great foundation stone of all,  
 That never falters and never alters,  
 But reigns triumphant over home and hall.

Masonic pages through unborn ages  
 Shall paint the picture of thy lofty mien,  
 And tell to others that brave mystic brothers  
 Shall keep thy memory in immortal green!

JOHN A. JOYCE.

*Washington, D. C., October 25, 1899.*

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## ALBERT GALLATIN MACKEY,

SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL, 33°, A. A. S. R.,  
 SOUTHERN JURISDICTION, U. S. A., FROM 1844 TO 1881.

This Brother was born in Charleston, South Carolina, March 12, 1807. When seventeen years of age he was appointed a teacher in the public schools of St. Johns, a place near Charleston, and while teaching he studied medicine, was admitted to the South Carolina Medical College, and was graduated in 1832, his Latin thesis obtaining the first prize. Some years afterwards he became Demonstrator of Anatomy in the college from which he had been graduated. He gave up the practice of medicine in 1842 and afterwards devoted himself to literature and Masonry, becoming a frequent contributor to the newspapers, magazines, and journals of the day.

He was made a Mason in 1841 and was elected Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina in 1843 and Grand Lecturer in 1845, holding these offices until 1866. He was elected Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter in 1854, and re-elected every year continuously until 1867. The office of General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter of the United States was filled by him in 1859. The thirty-third degree was conferred on him in 1844 and he was then elected Secretary General, holding the place until his death. Dr. Mackey's first book on Masonry was the "Lexicon," which was published in 1845. Then appeared in succession "The Mystic Tie," "Ahiman Rezon," "Principles of Masonic Law." "Book of the Chapter," "Text Book on Masonic



LEM. TOWERS, JR..  
G. SWORD BEARER



JOSEPH H. MILANS  
G. PURSUIVANT



WARREN C. BICKFORD  
G. TILER



J. HARRY CUNNINGHAM  
S. G. STEWARD



CHARLES J. O'NEILL  
J. G. STEWARD



Jurisprudence," "History of Masonry in South Carolina," "Manual of the Lodge," "Cryptic Masonry," "Symbolism of Freemasonry," "Encyclopedia of Freemasonry," and "Manual of Parliamentary Law." These works made the name of the author famous and they are still in use throughout the United States by many of the various bodies of the Fraternity.

In July, 1865, he was appointed Collector of Customs at Charleston, and in 1868 was elected President of the Constitutional Convention of South Carolina. He gave up political life in 1870, came to Washington, D. C., and devoted his attention to the duties of the office of Secretary General of the Supreme Council. General Pike thus describes Dr. Mackey, "Tall, erect, of spare but vigorous frame, his somewhat harsh but striking features were replete with intelligence and amiability; idolized by his wife and children he loved them devotedly; plotted no harm against any one, and sought no revenge even when he did not forgive, not being of a forgiving race, for he was a McGregor having kinship with Rob Roy."

His ripe scholarship, his profound knowledge of Masonic law and usage, his broad views of Masonic philosophy, his ceaseless and invaluable literary labors in the service of the Order, his noble ideal of its character and mission as well as his genial personal qualities and lofty character united to make him universally known and as widely respected and beloved by the Masonic world.

While a resident of Washington, Brother Mackey took an active interest in York Rite Masonry; was a member and regular attendant of the Grand Lodge and a frequent visitor to the subordinate lodges and chapters of this jurisdiction; served for some years as Chairman of the Committee on Jurisprudence of the Grand Lodge, and was always an adviser to assist the deliberation of that body with his knowledge and counsel.

Dr. Mackey died at Fortress Monroe June 20, 1881, and was interred June 26 in Glenwood Cemetery, this city, the Grand Lodge performing the solemn ceremonies of the Order, after religious and Scottish Rite services had been held at All Souls' Church. The Supreme Council in recognition of his great services to it and to Masonry erected a tablet to his memory in the Cemetery.



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